JUDGE DREDD

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JULY 25, 1994 DRAFT
BLUE REVISION AUG. 02, 1994
PINK REVISION AUG. 09, 1994
GREEN REVISION AUG. 15, 1994
YELLOW REVISION AUG. 22, 1994
MAUVE REVISION AUG. 23, 1994
GREY REVISION OCT. 17, 1994
BLUE REVISION OCT. 17, 1994
PINK REVISION OCT. 31, 1994

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1 THE SCREEN IS BLACK 1

A VOICE
In the Third Millennium, the world changed. Climate. Nations. All were in upheaval. Humanity itself turned as violent as the planet. Civilization threatened to collapse. And then... a solution was found. The crumbling, legal system was merged with the overburdened police, creating a powerful and efficient hybrid. These new guardians of Society had the Power to dispense both justice and punishment. They were police, jury and executioner, all in one. They were...

The Judges.

2 EXT. WALL/WASTELAND - SUNSET (MODEL SHOT) 2

Nothing grows here. Nothing could. This is the CURSED EARTH. With a WHIRR, a SHUTTLE appears in the sky. We PAN it to a GIANT CITY WALL. A LOCK-LIKE GATE chugs open. The shuttle ENTERS

INT. WALL - SUNSET 3

As the massive craft settles, it is sprayed down by HI-POWERED HOSES. Brown dirt drips away to show eroding metal and the words "MEGA-CITY JUDGE SYSTEM - ASPEN PRISON SHUTTLE #3."

P.A. SYSTEM
ASPEN PRISON SHUTTLE DOCKED.
COMMENCE ANTI-CONTAMINATION.
SPRAY DOWN PAROLEES, PREPARE TO DISEMBARK.

The shuttle's air lock port whooshes OPEN. A line of drably dressed men and women exit; carrying their few possessions.

4 INT. WALL/CORRIDOR - FAVORING LAST EX-CONVICT IN LINE - SUNSET 4

HERMAN FERGUSON ("FERGIE"). Fergie's a genius - a genius without common sense, street smarts, or muscle tone. So his career as a master criminal has gone absolutely nowhere. A GUARD checks him as he passes through a corridor.

GUARD
(scanning him)
Ferguson, Herman. Six month sentence Aspen Prison served.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 4

GUARD (Cont'd)
Welcome back, Citizen. Your living assignment is Block Y, "Heavenly Haven", Red Quad. Next!

Fergie hurries past the guard, exits the end of the corridor -and stops in his tracks, REACTING to -

A MAGNIFICENT CITY/WALL STREET

5

Giant towers reach miles into the sky. Elevated skyways are filled with traffic. Flying Barges and Shuttles service the highest levels. Almost lost and forgotten among the towering buildings is a relic from our time: The Statue of Liberty.

MEGA-CITY ONE: 2139

Fergie looks hopefully at the gleaming city - he's back -then at his papers.

FERGIE
Heavenly Haven. Sounds nice.

EXT HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK - STREET - SUNSET

6

And it is nice - a perfect Utopian future of happy families strolling through a green urban park. CAMERA WIDENS... and we realize that the scene is a "video poster" on a bleak TOWER BLOCK.

VIDEO POSTER
(taped V.O.)
--oming soon, the Heavenly Haven Pocket Park. Bringing fresh air and recreation to your lives. Another design for better living from the Mega City Council. Coming soon, the Heavenly Haven Pocket Park. Bringing fresh air...

Surrounding the block on all sides are GIANT TENEMENTS. Weary, hungry and dirty RESIDENTS ("Rezzies") scurry past.

NEW ANGLE - THE TOWER BLOCK

With a buzz and flicker the commercial is turned off and replaced with the official JUDGE emblem.

The sudden silence attracts some attention. We see a small man in overalls - a city tech - slip a NEW DISC into the poster's base, which begins to PLAY.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: 6

We TIGHTEN AS Rezzies gather around, watch the new video. It shows a new monolithic BUILDING.

VIDEO POSTER V.O.
Coming soon, the Heavenly Haven Law Enforcement Barracks, bringing surveillance and security to your lives. Another design for better living from the Mega City Council.

REVERSE ANGLE

As this sinks in on the tenement residents.

FIRST RESIDENT
I don't believe it. Our Park! They stole our park!

SECOND RESIDENT
Lying bastards!

FIRST RESIDENT
Lying Judges!

A BRICK gets tossed into the VIDEO SCREEN. As it SPARKS, the residents swarm around it, throwing bricks and bottles.

INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK TOWER/SQUATTER'S APT - DUSK 7

Twist, a mad-looking punk, watches the riot from the window, amused. He turns to four other rough, crazed-looking squatters, sitting around the run-down condemned room.

TWIST
Hey, Droogs. The rezzies are going mental.

Zed, the leader, turns, a mad look in his eye.

ZED
Perfect, let's give 'em a hand.
(beat)

He motions to Reggie, who smiles, lifting up a mattress to reveal some of the meanest futuristic weapons under it.

CUT TO:

8 INT. TAXI SHUTTLE - IN FLIGHT - DUSK 8

Fergie's jammed in with other lower economic PASSENGERS. Their flight across the evening Mega City skyline is awesome.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 8

Huge, bizarre buildings cut through the smog as far as the eye can see. Skycars and buses speed in and around the tower blocks.

Pergie sees a terrace pool where a number of girls are frolicking. He waves, speaks to the Shuttle DRIVER.

PERGIE
Right down there... I think that's Heavenly Haven.

No such luck. The craft starts to descend into the darker bowels of the city.

9 EXT. TAXI SHUTTLE - HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK - STREET - DUSK 9

The structures it passes grow progressively older. Filth and grime cover everything. The shuttle lands on the street with a WHOOSH.

PERGIE

The minute he gets out the shuttle lifts off. Pergie looks around, sighs.

PERGIE
Still better than prison.

Suddenly a BRICK sails past his head, just missing him. He looks in astonishment at a dirty downtown riot.

PERGIE'S POV

More and more frustrated residents throwing bricks, bottles, garbage

VOICES
THEY STOLE OUR PARK! BLOCK WAR!
BLOCK WAR! BLOCK WAR!

Dodging debris, Pergie runs into the building.

INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN TOWER/CORRIDOR - NIGHT 10

A BATTERED ROBOT FOOD CART cruises the hallway, oblivious to the people darting around it.

ROBOT FOOD CART
(a recording)
Delicious and healthful ration packs, piping hot and ready to eat..!

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 10

Fergie checks the papers he was given on his arrival at the city. Moves towards "his" apartment. The door is ajar, something's not right.

CUT TO:

11 INT. SQUATTER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 11

Fergie enters. CHIK CHAK --! His eyes widen as Zed puts his gun right between his eyes.

ZED
What do we have here? You a Judge Spy, little man?

The others laugh at the concept.

FERGIE
Me, no, no -
(showing papers)
I live in this apartment, I mean, I'm gonna live here -- if I live -
(trying to slip away)
Maybe I'll go to a hotel -

TWIST
No way, man. Don't you hear them-out there? It's a block war, man!

They grab him, playing roughly with him.

ZED
If you're a Rezzie then you gotta stand up for your block!

FERGIE
Look, I'm on parole - If I get in trouble my ass is back in Aspen...

CLICK Zed's gun is back in his face.

FERGIE
(quickly, cheerleading)
Let's go, Haven, Let's go Haven, Haven all the way

Zed throws him to his friends. Goes to the window.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: 11

ZED
(shouting)
BLOCK WAR!

In madness and all together, they spew out bullets.

12 EXT. HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK - STREET LEVEL 12

Mayhem on the street. Falling concrete, explosions caused by the powerful weaponry. A resident breaks for cover. BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA. He's cut down midway.

13 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN TOWERS - THE SQUATTERS APT. 13

ZED
Did you see that! What a shot!

The squatters have spread out and FIRE from the windows of adjoining rooms, shooting down, across, everywhere. The opposite tower block begins to fire back - it's chaos!

Fergie is handed a bag of ammunition.

FERGIE
(to himself)
Welcome to the neighborhood.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET LEVEL - NIGHT - CLOSE ON TWO FIGURES 14

Speeding towards the chaotic tower blocks, wearing armored uniforms, riding ARMORED MOTORCYCLES that make Harleys look like tricycles. LAWMASTERS. Both riders wear HELMETS that conceal most of their faces. But we can see that the leader is a woman. Her badge reads "Hershey". Suddenly BULLETS ping around her

HERSHEY
Take cover!

As bullets seek them out, both riders skid into a stop and jump behind their bikes and into combat positions. Hershey's partner BRISCO is young and eager.. too eager.

BRISCO
(behind barricade)
Just like an Academy Simulation, right down to the crossfire.

He starts to rise --

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: 14

BRISCO
I'll lead off, you follow.

HERSHEY
(yanking him back)
This isn't a Sim, Rookie! You will stand down and wait for back up!
(into helmet mike)
In position outside Heavenly Haven. Under fire from upper floors.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. VIEW OVER MEGA - NIGHT 15

In the distance, a busy city street: in the shadows, a lone figure steps into the light to mount his LAWMASTER CYCLE.

The rider's GLOVED HAND activates the Lawmaster's CITY MAP.

HERSHEY (V.O.)
Fire is coming from Level Y, repeat Y. Request back-up, nearest Judge!

The map BEEPS, shows a route. The hand moves to the THROTTLE.

LAWMASTER

TEARS towards CAMERA, burning rubber. Cloud of blue smoke. Deafening

16 EXT. STREET - BLOCK WAR - NIGHT 16

Hershey and Brisco are pinned down under a barrage of fire. Smoke fills the street, the sounds of automatic weapons fire, exploding glass, and screams, fill the air. Hershey tries to get a shot off - a bullet ricochets near her -

CUT TO:

17 THAT ONCOMING LAWMASTER 17

Whips around a corner - dodges a burned out vehicle. A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL sails in front of it, EXPLODES.

UP ANGLE

The bike parts the flames like a curtain, SLAMS to a HALT right in the middle of all the chaos. The Rider gets off.

18 HERSHEY AND BRISCO 18

Huddle behind their bikes at the perimeter.

BRISCO
Who the hell's that? He's a sitting duck out there, he's gonna--

He starts to rise -- Hershey stops him with a hand on his shoulder.

HERSHEY
(smiling ruefully)
Sit back and pay attention, kid. He knows what he's doing.

19 THE FIGURE 19

Steps out of the flames. Six feet of armored justice, he was raised in a State Orphanage that taught him Duty and Honor. Now, he serves that State as Judge... Jury... and Executioner. His BADGE fills the frame: "DREDD".

HERSHEY AND BRISCO

Brisco can read the badge --

BRISCO
(with actual awe)
Holy Crud...

DREDD

Takes the speaker microphone from his Lawmaster and looks up as his booming voice fills the city skyline.

DREDD
Drop your weapons - this block is under arrest.

HERSHEY AND BRISCO

Amazingly there is calm. Hershey has to smile. Brisco can't believe it.

INT SQUATTER'S APT. - NIGHT 20

As Twist stares down through his gunsight, his eyes fix on Dredd's badge - he jumps back, scared.

TWIST
It's Judge Dredd!

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: 20

A moment of silence as the others look at each other -- stunned --

ZED
What are you doing!?

TWIST
(shitting in his pants)
But it's... D-Dredd --

Zed grabs Twist and SLAPS his face --

ZED
Wanna be scared - be scared of me.

FERGIE
Hey -- How 'bout if I run down there and surrender - sorta' throw him off-guard...

All three of them stare back at him - no way.

ZED
(shouting out the window)
Come and get us, Dreddy!

He FIRES out the window. Inspired, Reggie happily joins, then the others. Finally Twist shrugs, FIRES too.

EXT. THE STREET - NIGHT 21

The chaos starts up again... The stream of GUNFIRE pings and spanks off the pavement at Dredd's feet.

BRISCO
Judge Dredd. Take cover-!

He strides calmly over to Hershey and Brisco.

DREDD
He's firing 20 mm caseless flechet rounds at six hundred feet --

DREDD
...Effective lethal range is thirteen meters. We're safe. What are you doing back there, Judge Hershey?

HERSHEY
Waiting for back-up.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 21

DREDD
It's here.

Hershey and Brisco stand -- Dredd inspires confidence in them the way he strikes fear in the hearts of the lawless.

DREDD
(looking at building)
Let's go. Keep it simple. Standard relay. Single file. I'm point.

Hershey nods. Brisco, eager to prove himself, steps in front of Dredd at the Heavenly Block entrance. WHAP -- Dredd stops him with the back of his hand.

DREDD
You - last.

Brisco gets behind Hershey. Dredd turns toward Heavenly as he draws his massive LAWGIVER HANDGUN. Dredd speaks into the tiny computer in the breech as he aims at the door.

DREDD
Grenade.

INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN FRONT RECEPTION - NIGHT 21A

BOOM. The door is blown off its hinges. Silhouetted in the doorway, the three Judges enter, Dredd moving ahead.

DREDD
They're on the 48th. Meet me there.

HERSHEY
(confused)
What you gonna do - ring the bell and ask them to stop?

But he's already gone.

CUT TO:

INT. HEAVENLY TOWERS - WITH THE SQUATTERS - NIGHT 22

Fergie, terrified, passes loaded ammo clips to his "friends". The WHIRR of a motor outside the hallway attracts his attention.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: 22

HIS POV: THE FOOD ROBOT - ON ITS ROUNDS

FOOD ROBOT
Delicious and healthful ration packs, piping hot and ready to eat...!

Expression changes. Looks at his crazed "friends" and then backs up to the robot...

CUT TO:

23 OMITTED 23

24 INT. ANOTHER ROOM - NIGHT 24

The squatters are all so busy FIRING their own guns out the window they don't SEE the CIRCLE OF BULLET HOLES that carve an opening above their heads! With a CRASH, the section of ceiling FALLS IN - Dredd rides it down, FIRING two guns!

NEW ANGLE

They all turn too late. His shots catch most of the shooters by surprise. They fly backwards like rag dolls, until only their smouldering remains lie crumpled on the floor.

Suddenly, the door bursts open - Hershey and Brisco swing in, ready for battle. Dredd is calm.

DREDD
This room is pacified.

25 AT THE DOOR TO THE NEXT ROOM 25

Dredd avoids the door, moves along the wall. Suddenly Brisco darts forward.

BRISCO
This one's mine!

HERSHEY
No!

Dredd moves to stop him but he's too far away. Brisco kicks the door open -

IN THE SQUATTER'S ROOM

He's face to face with Reggie, Zed and Twist.

BRISCO
This room is under --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 25

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA! Brisco is blown backwards off his feet. His Lawgiver falls into the apartment, sliding towards Twist.

DREDD

Spins, Snarls, enraged. Hershey and Dredd go to Brisco, but it's obvious he's dying.

BRISCO
...D-Dredd... stupid uh...

He's dead. Dredd's face hardens like rock.

IN THE ROOM

TWIST
(suddenly noticing)
Lawgiver! Awesome.

ZED
Hey. Where's the little ammo dude?

DREDD
(from outside)
You're all under arrest. Surrender now, or prepare to receive your sentences.

They look round for a minute - then BLAST away. Dredd speaks again into his Lawgiver, preparing to kick ass.

DREDD
Full auto. Rapid fire.

ROOM. Twist picks up Brisco's Lawgiver. Aims at the doorway.

TWIST
Come and get it, Judges!

ZED
Don't! It's booby trapped - !

Too late. Twist pulls the trigger. BEEP BEEP BEEP. KABOOM! The Lawgiver EXPLODES with electricity!

SUDDENLY slo-mo DREDD dives through the open door. His Lawgiver starts spewing death. BLAM BLAM BLAM!

Dredd rolls across the floor. THE LAWGIVER spews a stream of bullets into the squatters' legs. Dredd gets to his feet, then dives for cover, firing, as Reggie trains a weapon as big as achainsaw on him, decimating Dredd's hiding place.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

25

DREDD
(into Lawgiver)
Armor piercing!

BEEP and LED change on the weapon. Dredd FIRES -

The bullet goes THROUGH Reggie's weapon, kills him!

BACK TO SCENE

The other two squatters charge Dredd from two sides!

DREDD
(into Lawgiver)
Double whammy!

BEEP. He FIRES. Two bullets come out at once, CROSSING in mid air -- each taking out a man!

ZED

Starts to get up - sees Twist's ARM on his body! Screaming, he kicks it aside and jumps up - right into Dredd's KICK.

HERSHEY

Brisco is dead in her arms. She turns to the room. Dredd is dealing with Zed. But something catches here eye. Reggie isn't dead -he's made a move to a weapon - ready to get Dredd in the back. Hershey swings around, her Lawgiver drawn. Reggie goes for the trigger. BLAM! Hershey takes him out.

DREDD
Mega City Municipal Code 334.8.
Willfull destruction of property.
That's two years.

Zed searches for a weapon in a panic.

DREDD
Code 11-5C. Illegal possession
of assault weapons. Five years.

Dredd moves towards him with unnerving calm.

DREDD
Code 34-A. Resisting arrest.
Twenty years.

Zed is backed up against the window, but smiles confidently as Dredd gets close.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

25

DREDD
9804. Assault on a Judge with deadly intent.

CAMERA REVEALS that Zed has another weapon hidden behind his back. Zed goes for the gun - finger on trigger - up on to Dredd's body.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

25

ZED
(tough, scornful)
Don't tell me. Life.

DREDD
No... Death.

BLAM! Dredd pulls the trigger a split second before Zed. Zed flies back --

26 NEW ANGLE

26

CRASHES backwards through what's left of a window. Falls 48 stories -- His SCREAM lasts a long time before we hear the SKID of TIRES far below.

DREDD
Court is adjourned.

27 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN CORRIDOR - NIGHT

27

Other Judges and paramedics have arrived. The Judges process arrestees and the paramedics see to the wounded. Hershey looks on beside Dredd as Brisco's body is lifted up and carried away.

HERSHEY
I was supposed to watch out for him. Damn it!

DREDD
Don't blame yourself, Hershey. He made the mistake. Not you. Fill in an Adverse Report... his reactions were slow - judgement faulty.

HERSHEY
(angry)
That's great. That makes me feel a lot better. Wouldn't it feel good to have an emotion once in a while?

But Dredd is distracted - he cocks his head, listening. Somehow in the din and confusion he has heard something. He turns.

NEW ANGLE

The food robot is coming down the corridor, skittering around bodies and debris. Its actions are less smooth than before.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

27

ROBOT VOICE
Umm, umm, yumm! Healthful and nutritious food rations, ready to eat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

27

Dredd moves around in front of the Robot -- blocking it's path --

DREDD
(to robot)
Halt! You have ten seconds to surrender. Ten. Nine.

HERSHEY
(puzzled)
Dredd, it's just a servo-droid...

ROBOT VOICE
Ah, just make your selection insert your credit in the slot and -

Dredd suddenly pulls out his weapon and shoves the muzzle into the credit slot -- Click --

ROBOT VOICE
-- and - shit!

A jumble of food in back spills out as Fergie uncoils from the cramped interior, still holding the sparking wires he was using to manipulate the machine. Dredd picks Fergie up by the scruff of the neck and pins him against the wall.

DREDD
Mega-City Municipal Code 1286.4: Willful sabotage of a public droid. That's six months, citizen. Let's see your Unicard.

FERGIE
Come on, give me a break, Judge uh-
(seeing nametag, pales)
D-dredd? Oh God...

Fergie swoons. By now Hershey has run her scanner over Fergie's card and Fergie's dossier is zipping by.

HERSHEY
Ferguson, Herman. Hacker. Illegal tampering of city droids and computers ... cash machines, robot taxis -

DREDD
And you haven't even been out of jail for twenty four hours.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

27

DREDD (Cont'd)
(to Hershey)
He's a habitual, Hershey.
Automatic five year sentence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4) 27

He sees Dredd's impassive face, turns to Hershey's more sympathetic one.

FERGIE
Five years? no -- No! I - I had no choice, Judge - ! They were killing each other up there... I had no choice...

DREDD
You could have gone out the window.

FERGIE
48 floors? It's suicide!

DREDD
Maybe, but it's legal. Five years - Aspen Penitentiary. Case closed. Take him away.

Still protesting, Fergie's hauled away. Hershey looks at Dredd

HERSHEY
He might have been telling the truth. Haven't you ever heard of extenuating circumstances?

DREDD
I've heard it all, Hershey.

She looks at Dredd disappointingly and we

CUT TO:

28 EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT 28

The gleaming civil and legal heart of Mega-City, shaped like the symbol of the Judge System itself: An Eagle.

VOICE (GRIFFIN)
My fellow Judges, have we forgotten the lessons of History?

29 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT 29

The CAMERA discovers the Mega-City Council of Judges, in mid session. CHIEF JUSTICE FARGO, 70, sits at an elevated position at a great BLACK TABLE.

In the centre, a map of North America, showing only three Mega cities remaining: MC1 (New York); MC2 (L.A.);

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: 29

and Tex City (Houston). In the middle: the Cursed Earth. Other Judges sit on either side of him. Among them are JUDGE MCGRUDER, a woman in her 40's, open minded but with an iron will; JUDGE ESPOSITO, also 40's, thoughtful, accommodating; JUDGE SILVER, almost 50, short-tempered, yet fair; and JUDGE GRIFFIN, 60, with a mind and body as honed as men half his age, his clean features can hide much. But now, they hide nothing: His passion and sincerity make his words ring.

GRIFFIN
However quickly these block wars can be contained, it is clear that they are becoming an epidemic. An epidemic that should be dealt with immediately. The only solution is a tougher Criminal Code. *

The assembly REACTS as rowdily as the British Parliament.

SILVER
The situation gets worse every day... 73 citizen riots over two months in sixteen different sectors.

MCGRUDER
Violent crime is rising 15% every quarter. If we do not increase our resources, they will be inadequate in under three years. *

ESPOSITO
Three years? Our resources are inadequate now!

UPROAR. We sense that the room is evenly divided. A GAVEL BANGS for order with a CRACK like thunder.

FARGO
My fellow council members. As a city, we continue to grow. And growth is painful. Sixty five million people living in an area built for under twenty. It's not enough that they rely on us for clothes, food, water and clean air...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

29

GRIFFIN
(interrupting)
Chief Justice. This city is in chaos.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

29

GRIFFIN (Cont'd)
For social order we need tighter reins. My curfew proposal should be implemented immediately.

FARGO
Treat men like animals and they'll act like them.

GRIFFIN
Perhaps you'd prefer we strip the Judges of their current powers and return to the antiquated system of trial and jury? Incarceration hasn't worked as a deterrent. I say we expand execution to include lesser crimes.

Fargo looks at the other Judges. He can see that Griffin is making sense to some of them.

FARGO
This body is not the first assembly to think that more laws and fewer choices will bring peace and order. That delusion has been tried and failed before.
(to Griffin)
My fellow judges, I was barely in my teens when I put on this badge. When the time comes for me to take it off... let me do it knowing that is stood for Freedom... and not for Repression.

He sits down. Clearly he has changed the mood of the room. Griffin more than anyone understands and respects this.

JUDGE GRIFFIN
Once again, Chief Justice, you have served as a moral compass for all of us. I... withdraw my proposal.
(pause)
I hope... for good.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 30

Dredd, helmet still on, is watching a MONITOR. VARDIS HAMMOND, grey-haired, commanding, is standing in front of Heavenly Haven Block while workers put things back in order.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: 30

HAMMOND (ON MONITOR)
--53 people hospitalized. 5 of them... children. 19 dead... 4 of them allegedly killed by a gang of squatters who were themselves killed in summary executions by Judge Dredd...

CAMERA WIDENS as the Council Chamber doors OPEN. Griffin comes over, watches with Dredd. Dredd stiffens at the approach of his superior. Griffin silently indicates for him to stand at ease.

DREDD
(grimly)
A rookie Judge died there today, too. I guess he wasn't worth mentioning.

GRIFFIN
(wryly)
No, that might confuse the viewers. We can't be victims, Dredd... we're the villains!

DREDD
Things will change, sir.

GRIFFIN
(leaving)
I pray for it every night, Dredd.

WITH DREDD

As Griffin leaves, Dredd turns back to the screen:

HAMMOND
Some say that working these mean streets day after day is bound to have a dehumanizing effect on the Judges -- But is it the streets or the Judges themselves that have created this atmosphere of savagery? As my special undercover report continues tomorrow night I'll take you behind the walls of the Halls of Justice for a disturbing probe into these recent riots and block wars - coincidence or deliberate?

FARGO O/S
Dredd!

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2) 30

Dredd turns to see Fargo at the door to the chamber, beckoning him. Startled, Dredd steps inside.

31 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT 31

Lights dim now that the session is over. The atmosphere is cathedral-like. Fargo stands in front of the bas-reliefs around the hall - tapestries of the wars, famines and violence that ruined our world.

DREDD
Yes, Chief Justice?

FARGO
Joseph --

Fargo is quiet, reflective. Dredd stands beside him.

FARGO
As you know, I've always taken a special interest in your career.

DREDD
Yes, sir. I know that. It's appreciated.

FARGO
So tell me; seven Summary Executions. Were they... necessary?

Dredd does not avert his gaze.

DREDD
Unavoidable, sir.

FARGO
Unavoidable? We make our own reality, Dredd.

DREDD
With all due respect, sir, times have changed: life doesn't mean much to some people any more. You would be able to see if you weren't...

FARGO
(sitting up)
If I weren't what?

DREDD
Always at the Academy... Sir.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: 31

FARGO
Don't you mean at the Academy wiping Cadet's Asses? That is what they say in the squad room, isn't it?

DREDD
It's irrelevant, Sir. You set the standard, Chief Justice Fargo.

FARGO
Now, you do... at least to many young cadets - you're a legend.

Fargo is playing with Dredd - He knows he hates a compliment.

DREDD
Sir --?

Fargo gets close to Dredd.

FARGO
Joseph, do you remember your time at the Academy?

DREDD
I remember what you taught me, sir.

Fargo manages to smile.

FARGO
I remember a cadet who embraced Justice. The Ideals as well as the lessons. My finest student. I've drawn a new assignment for you: Starting tomorrow, you're going to spend two days a week at the Academy.

Dredd takes this in his stride.

DREDD
I'd be honored. Unarmed combat, or marksmanship?

FARGO
(standing, with a grin)
Ethics.

CUT TO:

32 EXT. ASPEN PENAL COLONY - DAY 32

Through a violent blizzard we see an ominous mountain fortress. GUARD TOWERS on every corner. Wind rattles the concertina wire on the walls. If the Cursed Earth is hell, this is hell's prison.

32A OMITTED 32A

32B INT. PRISON/CELLBLOCK - NIGHT 32B

Row upon row of impenetrable grim steel cells. Accompanied by two heavily armed security guards, Warden JUDGE MILLER strides through the complex.

33 INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY WING 33

Miller and two GUARDS descend through the old part of the complex. Everything gets progressively dirtier and dilapidated as they go. Finally, they reach a MASSIVE STEEL DOOR with a computer access screen. Miller puts his hand on the lock.

The red light turns green. CLICK. The DOOR OPENS.

34 INT RICO'S CELL - DAY 34

Miller steps inside. AUTOGUNS mounted in the walls swing toward him The door CLOSES.

GUN COMPUTER
Remain still. Identify yourself.

MILLER
Miller. Warden.

GUN COMPUTER
Voice sample recognized. Thank you, Warden.

The guns swing back, training their sights on a circular platform in the circular steel room. Blue light creates a curtain around it; behind it, a figure moves.

RICO
(from darkness)
Warden. Have you come for another... chat?

MILLER
A short one, I'm afraid. Duty calls.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: 34

RICO
You look tired, Miller. You must loathe this job - feeding parasites at the public's expense.

MILLER
You - especially.

RICO
Oh. I don't cost the taxpayer anything - I'm a ghost.

Rico moves into the light. A handsome man, who has kept himself in good shape; yet his eyes are crazed.

RICO (CONT)
We're both prisoners here. You behind a desk... me behind... this. Fargo's reward for our services.

MILLER
When you killed innocent people you went far beyond service.

RICO
"Innocent"? The innocent exist only until they inevitably become perpetrators themselves. In the end, "Guilt" and "Innocence" are merely a matter of timing.

Miller hates Rico.

RICO
And when did you become a perpetrator? When you conspired to keep me alive, or when you accepted bribes to keep things that way?

MILLER
Feel grateful: your - our mysterious benefactor has sent you a package.
(to computer)
Deactivate Shield. Autoguns only.

The blue light fades as a warmer one replaces it. The autoguns on the wall swivel toward Rico. Miller moves onto the platform, hands over the package. Rico places his thumb on the lock and it OPENS.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2) 34

THE PACKAGE

Rico's JUDGE'S BADGE rests inside. Along with a PHOTOGRAPH... of Hammond, the newscaster. And... what appears to be a "Rubic's Cube" type TUBULAR PUZZLE.

MILLER
(curious)
What is that?

Rico begins to manipulate the puzzle.

RICO
The Ancient Puzzle, containing the Meaning of Life.

MILLER
(sarcastic)
Really. So Rico, tell me, what is the meaning of Life?

RICO
It ends.

And he AIMS the "puzzle." BLAM!

MILLER

The SHOT from the tiny weapon hits him in the throat. Gasping, he falls onto his knees. With one hand on his throat, he staggers

MILLER
(coughing)
Computer... ac-activate al-alarm!

GUN COMPUTER
Voice not recognized. Remain still.

Miller panics. Scrambles for the door.

GUN COMPUTER
Security Breach. Autogunns targeting.

MILLER
NO!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! He's cut down ten feet from the door.

15 OUTSIDE THE DOOR - THE TWO GUARDS 35

Jack shells into their riot guns. One punches 'override' into the door's keypad. They charge inside -

16 BACK IN THE CELL 36

The guards only see a body. They move in slowly towards the platform to look down on it. They recognize Miller, as behind them Rico jumps up from under the walkway. The guards turn too late - Rico's hands around the first guard's head -- twists -- SKRAAACKTCH-A! Pulling the gun from the falling body Rico aims -- KRACK-! The second Guard sinks to his knees, shot cleanly between the eyes.

RICO
(smiles)
I'm back.

CUT TO:

INT ACADEMY - INDOOR TRAINING RANGE - DAY - TIGHT ON DREDD 37

BLAM! BLAM! bullets ricochet off a dummy's body armour.

DREDD
Kevlar nine helmet and body armor.

WIDEN: Dredd is LECTURING to a group of CADETS who hang on his every word. We're in a TRAINING AREA like the one "Q" ran in the Bond movies.

DREDD (Cont'd)
Yours, when you graduate.
(pause)
If you graduate.

NEW ANGLE

Dredd moves to another training station. Another tech nods.

DREDD (Cont'd)
(holding it up)
Lawgiver Two. Twenty-five round sidearm with mission-variable voice programmed ammunition.
(into gun)
Signal Flare.

He FIRES. The FLARE explodes on the wall. Again -AHHS.

DREDD (Cont'd)
Yours, when you graduate.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: 37

HERSHEY - AT SUPPLY ROOM - SAME TIME

She watches Dredd, impressed with his style.

RESUME DREDD'S CLASS

Now he moves to several Techs who are hurriedly tweaking the most awesome LAWMASTER CYCLE we've seen.

DREDD (Cont'd)
Mark IV Lawmaster, improved model. With on-board dual laser canons, vertical take off and landing, flight capacity and 500 kilometer range.

The head Tech gives thumbs up while the other techs step back. The class waits, expectant. The lead tech throws a REMOTE. The bike's wheels rise up into its body, leaving it hovering off from the ground. The bike computer reads ACTIVE. It WOBBLES - then - SPARKS fly! The motor COUGHS, dies. The wheels fold out again and it sits back down.

DREDD (Cont'd)
Yours... if they ever get it to work.

LAUGHTER Dredd moves to a lectern. Paces the class.

DREDD (Cont'd)
All of these things are nothing but toys. End of the day, when you're alone in the dark... all that counts... is this.

He takes something from the lectern shelf, throws it down. It's the all-but holy book: THE LAW.

DREDD (Cont'd)
And you will be alone when you swear to uphold these ideals.

FAVORING CADETS

They frown; this is not what they expected to hear from a living legend. They become increasingly unnerved.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2) 37

HERSHEY

The talk upsets her, too, perhaps more than the others.

DREDD'S VOICE (Cont'd)
For most of us there is only death on the streets... or, for those few of us who survive to old age... the prouder loneliness of the Long Walk, into the unknown of the Cursed Earth, to spend your last days taking the law into the outlands.

RESUME DREDD

DREDD
Class dismissed.

The class breaks up on a definite low note.

CUT TO:

INT ACADEMY LOCKER ROOM - DAY 38

Hershey dries her hair with a towel. A short, earnest cadet named OLMEYER approaches her. He's carrying a large BOOK.

OLMEYER
Judge Hershey, the deadline is only a week away. Have you changed your mind?

HERSHEY
Forget it, Olmeyer. I am not going to be the yearbook Centerfold!

OLMEYER
It's not a centerfold, it's a calendar! And it won't be a tacky 3-D hologram. The yearbook is all classic print and 2-D. Here, let me show you a dummy

HERSHEY
No - I'll show you one.

She turns him towards the polished locker wall. He faces his own reflection in the wall. Some other cadets snigger.

CUT TO:

9 DREDD 39

He stands in the shadows removing his helmet. It's always like Dredd to be apart from everyone else. She watches him take off his jacket, his tight muscle-bound body riddled with scars. There is a Judge emblem tattooed on his shoulder, like her own. He fascinates Hershey. Finally, she approaches him. As she gets close, Dredd stops and half-turns to her, his face shadowed.

HERSHEY
Judge Dredd? I caught your lecture today. Do... do you really think that's what the cadets need to hear?

He looks at her for a second, but she can only see pieces of him in this light.

DREDD
I told them the truth.

HERSHEY
Well, your truth maybe, but you made it sound as if our lives were practically over now.

DREDD
Parts are, Hershey.

HERSHEY
But I have a personal life. I have lots of friends and ...

DREDD
Really? And when was the last time you saw them?

HERSHEY
Well, my shifts keep changing a lot. It's hard to stay in touch.

DREDD
You've only been on the street a year. You're still in denial.

HERSHEY
No! I don't think that's right. No one's supposed to be alone all the time.
(beat)
Is it really like that for you? Haven't you ever...
(checking herself)
Haven't you ever had a... friend?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 39

DREDD
Yes. Once.

HERSHEY
Well, what happened?

For a moment fleeting pain passes across Dredd's face. But before it can fully register on us or Hershey, he walks away -Hershey gets the meaning.

HERSHEY
You judged him.

She remains rooted to the spot.

CUT TO:

EXT. MEGA CITY WALL LOCK - NIGHT 40

An ASPEN BARGE is docked here. It is dark, quiet.

INT. WALL/CORRIDOR - NIGHT 41

A CREW MEMBER with a COMPUTER TABLET checks off items as a GUARD ticks them off.

GUARD
...Two loads from the prison factory in Hold #1, Ore from the prison mine in Holds #3 & #4, prisoner mail in #2.

CREW
And no prisoners?

GUARD
Just dead ones.

He gestures towards some BODY BAGS, as he moves away.

GUARD
(leaving)
Their families were probably glad to get rid of them. Now they gotta bury them -

Alone now, the guard leans down to check the names on the bags. Suddenly, one of the body bags SITS UP, its face pressing against the plastic. The guard REACTS, too late. ZAP - the laser shoots out silently. The guard hits the floor. Rico slips out of the body bag.

CUT TO:

42 EXT. MEGA CITY - NIGHT 42

Not a nice part of town. A busy, crowded red-light district. The FACES we SEE and the SOUNDS we HEAR are unnerving.

This is not the shiny future we have seen now and again so far. This is the unlit shadow of that world. We HOLD on the scene, finally WIDEN to find... Rico! For those who notice these things, he's wearing a combination of the wardrobes of the two men he just killed. Rico walks past rows of MEN enraptured in violent/erotic VIDEO GAMES. He looks around, searching.

On a TV screen we see HAMMOND -- a replay of the block war segment. Rico smiles.

UP ANGLE

A shop with a busy ever-changing SIGN: GEIGER'S BAZAAR: SURPLUS - PAWN - FAX BOXES - VOUCHERS CASHED. He heads inside.

43 INT. GEIGER'S - NIGHT 43

A large squalid pawnshop. Surplus and junk hangs from the cluttered walls. The rear is divided by a ceiling-high locked fence that secures the better grade merchandise. GEIGER, 50's, scowls as Rico enters. Puffs on a cigar.

GEIGER
We've closed for the night.

RICO
You're holding a package for me. Codename, Lazarus.

GEIGER
(nervous)
Oh, yeah... Gimme a second.

While Geiger gets it, Rico quickly scans the store. A simple security camera in the corner. A jumble of crates and large antique weapons...

RICO
Nice place.

GEIGER
It might look like junk to most people, but most of these things are antiques - invaluable.

Rico points to what seem like rusting metal warriors.

RICO
I thought they destroyed all the ABC Warriors after the last wars?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 43

GEIGER
(coming back)
DeWats. You can collect 'em if you make 'em non-functional. Like my wife. These must be: 50, 60 years old.
(hands him box)
Here you go.

Geiger pretends not to watch as Rico opens the box with the thumb lock. Geiger sneaks a look... sees a uniform...

and a Judge's Lawgiver. Rico starts to reach inside. Geiger stops him.

GEIGER
Wait a second, don't touch it! Whoever sent you this is no friend at all.

RICO
Oh? Why's that?

GEIGER
That's a Lawgiver. They're programmed to only recognize a Judge's hand. If you want a weapon, I can get you something nice. But touch that and it'll take your arm off.

RICO
Really?

Rico grabs it suddenly. Geiger jumps back - then looks puzzled when nothing happens.

RICO
How do you like that?

He shoots Geiger at point-blank range. Geiger hits the floor.

RICO
I must be a Judge.

Rico bends, takes Geiger's keys and his cigars... then goes to the big cage.

ON THE ABC ROBOT

A huge armored combat veteran. We HEAR the metal cage rattle open. Rico approaches, crouches down and pulls a panel off the robot's head. Cables fall from its temple like dreadlocks.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (2) 43

Rico skilfully finds the right ones, pulling small steel tendons out, twisting one to another.

WIDER

A spark. A flinch. The ROBOT starts to WHIR. A GUSH of steam rises from its powerful torso. The eyes glow RED. Rico stands back. The robot sits up, slowly turning like an arthritic old man. Inside, a computer's deep voice.

ROBOT
Status. Commander. Mission.

Rico strikes a match on the robot, lights a cigar.

RICO
Status: Personal bodyguard.
Commander: Rico. Mission: We're going to war.
(smiles)
Geronimo.

CUT TO:

-- INT. HAMMOND'S APT. - NIGHT 44

Hammond and his wife LILY are in their modest apartment. Both wear nightclothes. Their antiques and decorations hint at a former era - our own.

Hammond is writing at a tiny computer console. Lily looks over his shoulder, shocked --

LILY
(reading)
A conspiracy in the Justice system? Radical Elements on the City Council? Where did you get this?

HAMMOND
When I followed up some grumblings coming from low level Council pages I found they confirmed a suspicion of mine: that the cancer of oppression goes deeper than the street Judges.

LILY
(incredulous)
You're going to say that over the air?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 44

HAMMOND
It's the truth.

LILY
Vardis, you're insane --

HAMMOND
I'm a reporter --

LILY
That doesn't mean you have to get yourself killed --

HAMMOND
(laughs)
They don't kill reporters, Lily -- not yet.

LILY
(actual fear)
They'll never let this get on the air, Vardis. Something like this could bring down the Council!

Long. The quiet tone of the door chime. Hammond gets up and starts across the room --

HAMMOND
Maybe it should. I was wrong to waste my time investigating individual Judges. The problem is the entire system -- Not just Judge Dredd.

He reaches for the door handle --

The door SWINGS OPEN --

A JUDGE

Silhouetted in the juncture.

HAMMOND
(weakly)
Oh no.

BRANK! BRANK! The Judge's gun FIRES and we

SLAM CUT TO:

45 EXT. MEGA CITY STREET - DAY 45

City noise. A wet dream of a FUTURE GULL-WINGED CAR tries to RAM its way out of a tight parking spot, CRASHING repeatedly into the cars in front and behind.

INT. GULL-WINGED CAR

An obnoxious Fuppie (Future Yuppie) with a HOT DATE, who finds this funny, in the passenger seat, blithely crumples his neighbors' cars in order to make room for himself.

FUPPIE
(drunk)
Wow! These ener-sorb bumpers are amazing! You can't feel a thing! Can you?
(CRASH! BAM!)
Why the hell's everbody got to crowd everybody?

As he turns to plow one more time into the car in front of him, he checks his wing mirror, adjusting it to see - HERSHEY standing calmly behind him.

HERSHEY
Step out of the car, please.

FUPPIE
(recovering quickly)
What the hell is the problem now?

HERSHEY flings open the gull-wing door and yanks the fuppie out by the arm.

HERSHEY
Step out of the car. You can make it hard or easy - You too, Miss.

FUPPIE
(shaking free)
Hey, girl, maintain yourself! I got connections on the Council.

HERSHEY
Unicard, please.

HERSHEY takes out the fuppie's uni-card from his top pocket, and slides it through her scanner.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: 45

HERSHEY
Did you hear me? I'm citing you for reckless driving...
(consults instrument)
Mr..... Souza
(looks up)
You have a suspended license.
3 counts of driving under the influence.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2) 45

FUPPIE
You better listen up... whatever your name is. I suggest you walk away and bother somebody else. When I said I have powerful friends, I mean powerful.

He stops suddenly, feeling a large chest behind him - he turns to read another Judge's badge... DREDD'S.

DREDD
Are we having a problem here, Hershey?

HERSHEY
Not at all Dredd. I can handle it - suspended license and 3 D.U.I.'s

FUPPIE
This is getting boring - okay, what's the tab? How much is this going to cost me - name your price.

DREDD
You wanna suck on my fist creep? Say that again -
(to Hershey)
Hershey, call Control for an H-wagon.

FUPPIE
What, are you taking me in - Then I want my car towed to a safe place.

DREDD
Towing is the penalty for the first offense - this is your fourth violation, you're a menace. How do you plead?

FUPPIE
Not guilty.

DREDD
I know you'd say that. You want it moved?

Dredd pulls out his Lawgiver.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (3) 45

DREDD
(into Lawgiver)
Grenade.

FUPPIE
NO!!!

WIDER

Dredd aims, FIRES. The car EXPLODES! The fuppie and his Hot Date stand slack-jawed as debris tinkles down around them. HERSHEY is NOT surprised - she turns seeing dark figures through the flames.

DREDD
Anything else you want moved?

HERSHEY
I love your subtlety.

DREDD
He broke the law.

HERSHEY
What do they want?

DREDD turns.

DREDD
Judge Hunters!

They're garbed for combat, yet without even the trace of humanity that seeps through a Street Judge's armor. These are the feared JUDGE HUNTERS. All have drawn weapons. The LEADER holds up a HOLO WARRANT with Dredd's PICTURE.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (4) 45

JUDGE HUNTER LEADER
Judge Joseph Dredd. You are under arrest.

DREDD
Arrest? The Judge Hunters have made a mistake.

JUDGE HUNTER
Don't move Dredd.

HERSHEY
What's the charge?

JUDGE HUNTER LEADER
Murder.

Dredd is stupefied.

46 OMITTED 46

47 INT. JUDGE'S COMPLEX - CELL CORRIDOR - DAY 47

At this hour the complex is quiet, empty. The Judge Hunters usher Chief Justice Fargo along, open a HOLDING CELL.

48 INT. HOLDING CELL - DAY 48

Fargo arrives at the cell and sees Dredd sitting on the side of the bed, manacled into a set of nearly transparent chains -- a type of stell-hard plastic. The Hunters move away.

FARGO
(formal)
Joseph...

Dredd rises in respect. He is surprisingly calm.

DREDD
Sir?

FARGO
Is it true?

DREDD
I'm innocent.

FARGO
The Council is said to have irrefutable proof. There's to be a full tribunal.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: 48

DREDD
Do you believe them?

They look into each other's eyes, each afraid of the truth they might find there. -- After a long beat, Fargo's face relaxes, reassured -- and his fondness for Dredd pours out.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: 48

FARGO
I'm sorry I had to ask. I just needed to look into your eyes for myself.

They look at each other with loyalty and affection.

DREDD
How could this happen? I don't understand...

FARGO
I'll use every resource to find out -- Have you selected a colleague to defend you?

DREDD
I've asked Judge Hershey.

FARGO
(dubious)
Hershey? Why a Street Judge?

Dredd is to the point - as usual.

DREDD
I can trust her.

Fargo rises to leave. The Judge Hunters unlock the cell.

FARGO
The facts will come out at the tribunal. I'll make sure of that.

Fargo manages an encouraging smile - and leaves.

48A EXT CELL 48A

When Dredd can no longer see him, Fargo's smile drops away, betraying his dire concern.

48B EXT HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT 48B

HAMMOND ON VIDEO O/S
Dredd, no please --

49 INT COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT 49

EXPLOSION of GUNFIRE on the MAIN SCREEN. We WIDEN. We're seeing the tail end of a SURVEILLANCE VIDEO of the murders of the Hammonds, taken by a camera outside their apartment.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

49

JUDGE MCGRUDER'S VOICE
Stop video.

HERSHEY

Stands alongside Dredd - nervous. It is the first time she has seen the tape. An enormous weight sits on her shoulders today.

COUNCIL CHAMBER - WIDER - NIGHT

The place is absolutely packed. Every off-duty Judge in Mega City is here.

So is every Cadet from the Academy plus the entire media brigade. In the centre dais stands Dredd, at his side both Defense and Prosecution: Hershey and McGruder.

MCGRUDER
Before we go on, I wish to make a personal comment.
(turning)
Judge Dredd. I have observed your career from its outset and I have the highest regard for you. Nevertheless, I must prosecute you to the best of my ability.

DREDD
That is the law, Judge McGruder. I would expect no less.

HIGH ANGLE - REVEALING THE HIGHEST SEAT

FARGO
The Court shares in Judge McGruder's sentiments. Proceed, Judge McGruder.

These words bring on a silence around the hall.

MCGRUDER
The video you have just seen is prima facia evidence that the defendant is guilty as charged. Mark it People's Exhibit "A".

Hershey steps forward, stopping the proceedings dead.

HERSHEY
Objection, Your Honor. This video is inadmissible as evidence.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (2) 49

HERSHEY (Cont'd)
If I can be given a moment to explain...

Everyone is surprised.

FARGO
(beat)
Please do.

HERSHEY
Your Honor, I have here an affidavit from Cadet Olmeyer, currently a Junior at the Academy.

OLMEYER - IN THE AUDIENCE

The heads of the other cadets around him swivel to look at him with new regard. He does his best to look cool.

HERSHEY
Cadet Olmeyer is acknowledged by all his instructors to be an expert in the field of still and video graphics. Top of his class five years running in Computer Programming and Manipulation, Honours four times over; Hall of Justice Certificate of Junior Law. He also helped create and develop Central's video analysis system. His affidavit states that this surveillance video is of such low definition that even after all known enhancements are used, no positive identification can be made of the killer.

She turns to McGruder, then to the audience.

HERSHEY (CONT)
Since the uniform of a Judge could be counterfeit, since the badge can be duplicated, and since neither video nor audio in this clip can identify positively the accused in any way, I repeat my objection to this video being entered as evidence in this case!
(turning to Griffin)
And I ask for a ruling.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3) 49

Esposito and Silver look puzzled - Griffin is fixed on Dredd. You could hear a pin drop in the vast room. Everyone watching is sure they know what Fargo will say. They're all wrong. He looks to McGruder and then straight at Dredd.

FARGO
Objection... sustained. The video is inadmissible.

The audience goes nuts. Fargo bangs his gavel.

OLMEYER
Yesss!

HERSHEY returns near Dredd as the court quiets down. OLMEYER WHOOPS a second longer than everyone else. Embarrassed, he quiets down and climbs down, but not before Dredd notices him.

HERSHEY
Go on, tell me.

DREDD
What?

HERSHEY
You're impressed.

JUDGE MCGRUDER - CALM

MCGRUDER
Very well. I am therefore forced to move to technical evidence of a critical nature.
(turning to Hershey)
I will need the Court's permission to access top secret documentation with the help of Central Computer Bank.

HERSHEY AND DREDD

They look at each other: Hershey's face drops a mile, as does Olmeyer's. It's not over. Griffin leans over and whispers to Fargo, the pressure starting to show on his face. The rest of the Council nod in agreement.

FARGO
You may proceed.

MCGRUDER
Central? Are you on line?

A calm voice is heard around the large hall.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

49

CENTRAL
On line, Judge McGruder.

MCGRUDER
I wish you to access weapons schematics. Please describe the working of the standard Judge's sidearm, the Lawgiver Two, and especially its improvements over the earlier Lawgiver One.

Somehow Central's monotonous, sexless voice hints at an actual personality.

CENTRAL
One moment.

COMPUTER GRAPHICS illustrating these words APPEAR on screen.

CENTRAL
Seven years ago, the Lawgiver Model Two replaced the Model One. The difference lies in two areas: The computer chip and the ammunition coding. Like the Model One, the computer chip recognizes the palm print of its owner: an imposter's hand print will activate the weapon's alarm.

ANIMATION reminds us of this in non-gory fashion.

CENTRAL
Model Two is coded to the personal DNA of the Judge using the weapon, via the skin's contact with the grip. A <u>failsafe</u> security precaution.

DREDD & HERSHEY

HERSHEY
Did you know about this?

DREDD
No.

Listening carefully, wondering where this is going.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

49

CENTRAL'S VOICE
The DNA is obtained from my medical files and upgraded automatically every time the weapon is reloaded. Each time a round is chambered and fired, the projectile is tagged with that relevant DNA.

HERSHEY
Chief Justice, the defense was unaware of this - as was everybody else here.

FARGO
Judge Hershey, the prosecution must be given time to finish.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (6) 49

NEW ANGLE

We slowly TIGHTEN on McGruder and her "witness".

MCGRUDER
Central. Were the bullets recovered from the bodies of Vardis and Lily Hammond so DNA coded?

CENTRAL
Yes, Judge McGruder. It could not be otherwise.

MCGRUDER
And what was the result of the computer check of the DNA coding on those bullets?

You could swear that the computer is going for drama. On the screen, a string of DNA appears -- a second strand appears next to it -- the two slide over each other -- perfect match.

CENTRAL
The DNA is a perfect match for Judge Joseph Dredd.

Fargo looks at Dredd as his mind races. Their eyes lock. Fargo has lost confidence in Dredd and lowers his eyes, his head in his hands.

COUNCIL CHAMBER

Pandemonium. Dredd loses his cool. *

DREDD
It's a lie! This is a setup. * It's not possible...

HERSHEY
(in shock, to Dredd)
DNA evidence is irrefutable! We have no case.

Griffin bangs the gavel. *

DREDD
I wasn't there.
(to Hershey) *
You believe me, don't you? *

Hershey looks at him - unsure. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7) 49

MCGRUDER
Your Honor, the Prosecution rests.

Griffin looks at McGruder, then to Fargo, who seems lost.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (6) 49

GRIFFIN
(taking control)
The Tribunal needs to confer.

49A INT. JUSTICE'S CHAMBER CORRIDOR - DAY 49A

An ashen Fargo sits with his face in his hands. Griffin stands nearby, trying to comfort him. Two men alone - moments to decide the fate of a nation.

FARGO
What have I done? How could I have been so wrong Dredd... Both of them homicidal... Only this time, it'll be impossible to cover up.

GRIFFIN
Chief Justice, we carefully buried the Janus project nine years ago, along with Rico and all his victims. No one will ever learn of your involvement.

FARGO
The media knows how close I am to Dredd. They'll dig until the whole truth comes out. It's the perfect excuse to ruin what government we have left.

GRIFFIN
Your motives were pure. You thought Dredd was different. That's why you spared him.

FARGO
A mistake which may bring down the judicial system.

They contemplate the horrible possibility.

GRIFFIN
There is a way out, Chief Justice, if you'll forgive me...
(beat)
The Long Walk.

Fargo looks at Griffin, indignant.

FARGO
That's a death sentence, Judge Griffin. Mine.

(CONTINUED)

A CONTINUED:

49A

GRIFFIN
As Chief Justice, your retirement grants you the power to save Dredd's life.

Fargo looks closely at Griffin. He's right.

GRIFFIN (CONT)
This - gesture - may also allow Janus to remain a secret.

CUT TO:

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT

49B

The Foreman of the Tribunal, COUNCIL JUDGE ESPOSITO, stands.

ESPOSITO
In the charge of Pre-meditated Murder, we find Joseph Dredd GUILTY as charged.

GASPS from the audience. It's the fall of a Legend.

FARGO

Looks Dredd in the eye, hiding a profound sadness. Dredd looks back, unblinking but deeply shaken.

FARGO
Joseph Dredd, you are aware the Law allows only one punishment for your crime: DEATH.

Shock rebounds from every wall.

FARGO
However: It has long been our custom to carry out the last order of a retiring Senior Judge.

He pauses -- this hurts -- he stands --

FARGO
And so I step down.

DREDD ON THE STAND

Shocked at this news.

DREDD
No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 49B

FARGO
As I leave to take my Long Walk into the Cursed Earth, I ask that this Court honor my last order: be lenient with Judge Dredd, in gratitude for his years of service.

Fargo averts his eyes from Dredd and relinquishes his seat to Griffin. Griffin sits down and luxuriates in the feel of the Chief Justice's seat a moment. Then he picks up the gavel and looks down at the court and Dredd with solemn affect.

GRIFFIN
(setting this down)
We will so honor this one, Justice Fargo.
(new tone)
The sentence shall be - Life Imprisonment at Aspen Penal Colony -

Dredd looks at Hershey, who is aghast.

GRIFFIN (CONT)
- to be carried out immediately. As it is written:

Fargo exits the courtroom - alone - Dredd watches. At the last moment, Fargo turns to look at him. A sad moment, all faith lost.

DREDD

Already the Judge Hunters are coming for him.

HERSHEY
Griffin! This trial is a farce... I demand an appeal you...

GRIFFIN
(hard)
You will accept the Council's decision, and you will accept it without question JUDGE HERSHEY!

DREDD
(to Hershey; takes her hand)
I didn't do it. Do you believe me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

49B

HERSHEY
Dredd - I'm sorry.

DREDD
You do believe me?

HERSHEY
I believe you.

Griffin reads from the Book of the Law.

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Let the Betrayer of the Law be taken from our Courts;"

The Hunters pull at him. Hershey hangs on as long as she can.

HERSHEY
Dredd...

Dredd tries to remain calm as he is led away. His eyes do their best to forgive her

ON GRIFFIN - RAKED CAMERA

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Let the Freedom he stole from others be stolen from himself;"

INT. SOMEWHERE

50

Wrists manacled, head down. The Judge Hunters pull off his armor, then literally rip away his uniform. He's naked, helpless. Chained.

GRIFFIN
"Let his armor be taken from him, and all his garb of Justice..."

INT. WALL - GATES OF MEGA CITY - SUNRISE

51

It is the ceremony of The Long Walk. Fargo stands alone, in a LONG DUSTER COAT and a wide brimmed HAT.

He holds his uniform, Lawgiver, and badge in a ceremonial bundle.

A young FEMALE CADET in a sweet Contralto that contrasts with Griffin's bass READS from a different part of The Law:

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 51

The great city gate begins to OPEN. Under a fading SUNSET we SEE the forbidden land beyond: THE CURSED EARTH. We TIGHTEN on Fargo, grizzled, weary; the girl, fresh, tearful. Like so many, she reveres this man and what he represents.

FEMALE CADET
"Let him be written in our hearts and our memories."

She hands him the Book. Receives his bundle of worldly belongings in return. A young MALE CADET steps forward, hands Fargo an ancient 12 gauge REMINGTON 870 pump shotgun -- relic of a police force long since dead.

52 INT WALL/CORRIDOR - DREDD 52

With thirty other prisoners - being led to the prison shuttle -all in chains. The others accept their fate.

Dredd is still devastated.

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Let him be stricken from our hearts and our memories."

FADE:

53

A line of CADETS raises Lawgivers overhead. Fargo walks through the arch of weapons.

FEMALE CADET
"Forever."

54 INT CITY WALL/LOCK - SUNRISE 54

The doors of the shuttle close. CLANG! Its engines roar -it leaves the docking bay.

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Forever."

55 EXT MEGA-CITY ONE WALL - LONG SHOT - SUNRISE 55

Fargo stands outside the massive wall - the gate shuts behind him. The shuttle flies away past him. The end of an era.

CUT TO:

56 INT GRIFFIN'S APARTMENT - SUNRISE 56

Griffin comes inside. The flickering firelight illuminates a huge silhouette sitting in the centre of the room. Steam rises from it. The huge figure slowly rises.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 56

As Griffin turns on the lights, we see the ABC Robot in greater detail, looking at Griffin - pissed.

RICO
Chief Justice Griffin... It has a - pleasant - ring.

Griffin angrily starts forward... stops when the ABC robot moves to block his path. Its head cranes down to look into his face. It cracks its neck, growls, like a Tyrannosaurus with a toothache.

GRIFFIN
We were supposed to meet someplace safe.

RICO
I like to do things my way. Anyway, this is safe. The reporter is dead. Fargo is on the Long Walk. Dredd is gone to Aspen--

GRIFFIN
It's unfortunate. I could've used Dredd. He practically worshipped the ground I walked on.

RICO
Dredd worships the law and he'll blow you away the minute he finds our how much you're pissing on it. You trust me and let him see what it's like to freeze his ass off in Aspen. Let him see what it's like to be me! After all...

He moves closer to Griffin, smiles.

RICO
...He and I have so much in common. Why not Aspen?

Griffin looks at him, and then at the Robot whose eyes burn into him. He decides to drop the subject.

GRIFFIN
There's a lot of work to be done.

RICO
(pleased)
Janus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2) 56

GRIFFIN
You'll see it soon enough. In the meantime I want chaos, Rico. That block war was just the beginning. Now I want fear racing through every street... Then the council will have to turn to me... and to Janus.

Rico smiles and moves to the window, looking out at the waking chaos of Mega City One.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3) 56

RICO
Fear. Terror. Panic. I think I can handle that.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. CURSED EARTH - DAY (MODEL SHOT) 57

A HOWLING WIND blows dust across the dead landscape. The ASPEN PRISON SHUTTLE appears over the horizon.

8 INT. ASPEN SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS 58

A wide body with the amenities of a galley. Armed Guards Patrol the rows of prisoners. Dredd sits, stone-faced.

The prisoner on the side of Dredd we haven't seen is Fergie. Now, he stares at Dredd. Something about the man...

Then he puts his hands over Dredd's face, leaving a gap between his fingers like the visor slit in a Judge's helmet. Yup. It's him.

FERGIE
Dredd?

DREDD
What?

FERGIE
Don't hit me - what are you doing here?

DREDD
I was convicted of a crime.
(pause)
Wrongly convicted.

FERGIE
That makes two of us.

BEHIND THEM we notice that a mean-looking prisoner has overheard the name Dredd.

DREDD
No. You got the sentence the Law required.

FERGIE
Five years just for saving my own ass? It was a mistake!

DREDD
The Law does not make mistakes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 58

FERGIE
Yeah? Then how do you explain what happened to you?

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: 58

The mean-looking prisoner tilts to stare at Dredd's profile -- Holds his hands up -- covers Dredd's face enough to see -- it is him.

DREDD
(pause)
I can't.

PERGIE
(sarcastic)
Oh, you can't. But the "Law doesn't make mistakes"? So what's this, then? A bug? A glitch? Typo? Fumble? Screw-up? Or maybe... POETIC JUSTICE?

OMITTED

59 EXT. THE CURSED EARTH - BELOW - DAY 60

CAMERA PANS over the empty landscape - then we SEE four men: Cursed Earth scavengers... namely, the ANGEL FAMILY. Their dustcoats flapping in the cruel outback - Sergio Leone's worst nightmare. They see the distant shuttle on the horizon.

JUNIOR ANGEL
Shuttle coming, pa.

REVEREND ANGEL looks skyward, opens his arms. Strange religious TATTOOS cover his body. His eyes gleam fanatically.

REVEREND ANGEL
Praise the Lord who brings us this generous bounty.
(pause)
My sons... gather the Harvest.

OMITTED 61 thru 66 67

INT. SHUTTLE - THE CAGE - SAME TIME

The mean-looking PRISONER shuffles his hands within their restraints to reveal that he is concealing a small but lethal blade. He looks to his partner next to him - it seems the word is spreading.

THE ANGEL BOYS - BELOW 67A

Pa, Link and Mean Machine Angel watch proudly as young Junior stands and places a beaten-up, old-fashioned bazooka contraption on his shoulder. A mechanical arm activates a time-bomb.

(CONTINUED)

67A CONTINUED: 67A

JUNIOR
Whoa! Gonna catch me some city boys!

Whoosh! Junior fires - the bomb shoots up towards the shuttle.

68 SHUTTLE 68

The magnetic bomb clamps onto the hull of the shuttle, at the back. Its red light flashes.

69 INT. SHUTTLE - THE CAGE - SAME TIME 69

The mean-looking prisoner cuts through his restraints. The man next to him smiles seeing his comrade free himself. The guards are not looking in their direction.

ON DREDD

As the prisoner goes to grab Dredd from behind... Fergie looks up

FERGIE
Dredd!

The prisoner lifts the blade.

PRISONER
Payback time, lawman!

Dredd reacts, grabbing the sharp knife next to his throat.

70 EXT SHUTTLE - DAY 70

The mechanical bomb's light blinks faster, then goes out. CLICK... then...

71 ON DREDD 71

The blade touches skin. KABOOM! The back of the shuttle explodes

72 THE ANGEL GANG 72

We move to their faces of anticipation.

LINK
She's gonna go.

PA
C'mon, come to Papa.

INT. SHUTTLE - SAME TIME 73 *

The EXPLOSION rocks the entire craft! It keels over as ALARMS RING. The mean prisoner is thrown backwards as the pressure is violently sucked out of the cabin. The back section of the shuttle is torn away. A guard falls back, his gun goes off, spewing bullets all over the cabin - one hits one of the pilots, who slumps. *

THE ANGEL GANG 74 *

even they feel the blast. The boys whoop and laugh. *

PA
Hallelujah! *

DREDD 75 *

watches as the uninjured pilot fights to control the seriously damaged craft - his face betraying fear. *

Fergie screams as they grab on to their seats. The shuttle shakes, the noise deafening. *

OMITTED 76 *

INT SHUTTLE - DAY 77 *

Dredd watches as the fire from the explosion spreads across the ceiling towards the fuel tank. Fergie's eyes widen. *

DREDD
(to Fergie)
Hold on: we're going down. *

FERGIE
No shit. *

EXT SHUTTLE - DAY 78 *

KABOOM! With a fiery explosion, the shuttle is violently blown into three pieces. The centre section shoots out towards camera *

ANGEL FAMILY - WATCHING THIS 79 *

PA ANGEL
Fine work, sons. *

JUNIOR
Thank you, pa. *

PA ANGEL
(gently chiding)
No; thank the Lord. *

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED: 79 *

ALL *

Amen. *

80 NEW ANGLE - DAY 80 *

The forward half of the shuttle smashes into the sand, skidding * and sliding into rocks, where it finally comes to rest. There's * one last groan of metal from the cabin, and then... silence. *

CUT TO:

81 INT. JUDGE'S LOCKER ROOM - EVENING 81 *

Late at night. Hershey slips in. She looks casual at first * but her alert manner when she sees two Judges going off shift * in the background tells us she has an ulterior motive. *

DREDD'S LOCKER *

WIDEN as she approaches it. She takes out a jimmy, starts to * work on the lock. NOISE of someone approaching. She starts * to hide what she's doing - relaxes with ironic amusement when * she sees it's only a cadet cleaning the floor. She returns * to what she's doing. CLICK. The locker opens. *

She rummages inside. Finds towels, second helmet, other * routine items. Then an old, leather volume: Emerson. *

She's impressed. Then she finds a can of brass polish... * another can of brass polish... With a sigh, she moves to the * bottom shelf... finds boot polish! She can't help but smile. *

Then she finds a valor award that's been tucked out of sight * so long it's covered with dust. *

She's about to give up when way in the back she finds a small * slipcase. That looks interesting. *

She rises, moves into the light, and slips out the contents. *

CLOSER *

It's a framed "viewie". It shows a YOUNG COUPLE with a BABY. *

HERSHEY *
(off viewie, amused) *
Well. Baby Dredd. Didn't think *
you were ever a baby. *

At her touch, the viewie becomes illuminated. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

81 *

BACK TO SCENE

She's about to return it to the locker - when something about its weight makes her suspicious. She turns it over, examines it -finds a HIDDEN SEAL. The frame OPENS.

Inside is a second viewie. It shows Dredd, mid-twenties - and an man we recognise as Rico, the same age. Both wear Cadets uniforms and big grins: Graduation day at the Academy.

HERSHEY

She's puzzled - quite clearly, she has no idea who Rico is. Then VOICES make her look up. It's the next shift of Judges coming into the locker room.

She draws out of sight, pockets the viewie, and exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. CURSED EARTH - EVENING

82 *

We see the shuttle wreck, and around it the helmeted JUDGE HUNTERS.

INT. WRECKED SHUTTLE - NIGHT

83 *

They rove through the dim wreck, using BAR CODE READERS to scan the ID tags of the dead. SCANNERS attached to their weapons show readings. Another Hunter steps inside through a jagged hole in the fuselage.

SECOND HUNTER
Sir. We found tracks leading away from the wreck. At least half a dozen people.

The HUNTER SQUAD LEADER taps his helmet mike.

HUNTER SQUAD LEADER
This is Capture Team. No sign of Dredd. He appears to have survived the crash. Repeat, he appears to have survived.

INT. GRIFFIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

84 *

GRIFFIN
(into intercom)
You are in error, Capture Team. Dredd did not survive the shuttle wreck.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED: 84 *

GRIFFIN (Cont'd)
No one survived the shuttle wreck.
Do I make myself clear?

SQUAD LEADER'S VOICE
Yessir. Quite Clear.

85 INT. WRECKED SHUTTLE - RESUME - NIGHT 85 *

ANOTHER HUNTER
Sir! We found someone.

We follow them forward. Their flashlights converge on an INJURED GUARD - the one Dredd saved from the convicts.

INJURED GUARD
Thank God... thank -

His eyes widen as their GUNSIGHTS move to his head. BLAM!

86 INT. HERSHEY'S APARTMENT NIGHT 86 *

Enough personal things to tell us she's both a danger-crazed athlete . and a romantic. Hershey's in sleepwear, her uniform for tomorrow already laid out. She sips coffee from an Academy mug, sits down at her apartment's Central Station.

HERSHEY
Central, I need to access the graphics database.

Hershey opens the framed viewies she took from Dredd's apartment, slides out the one with the adult Dredd. Slides it into the computer. The image appears on the screen.

HERSHEY
I want you to ID this man.

CENTRAL
Even from here, I can see it's Judge Dredd.

HERSHEY
(exasperated)
The other man!

CENTRAL
(all business now)
Scanning for identity, unknown male, approximately 208 Cm tall, weighing 95 kilos, Skin Tone Three. Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven. Six -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 86

Suddenly the CONSOLE GOES DEAD with a BEEP. The photo image is replaced by the Judge emblem.

HERSHEY
Central? Central? Hello?

A CANNED VOICE
(not Central)
This terminal has been disconnected from the main system for a system check. You no longer have access to the system. Thank you.

The viewie pops out of the slot with a thunk. Hershey looks at the computer suspiciously.

CUT TO:

INT. DARK CORRIDOR - NIGHT 87

Griffin and Rico, followed by the Robot, walk along what appears to be a dark and dingy steel-structured corridor. Griffin activates a switch, similar to that used by Miller in the high security cell.

A PNEUMATIC DOOR OPENS to reveal a large circular room, partially covered and dusty. Rico and Griffin look around, pleased.

GRIFFIN
Welcome to Janus.

Rico's eyes narrow as he sees a figure move into light from the shadows: ILSA HAYDEN.

A gorgeous, but strange-looking, woman in her mid-thirties, she projects a cold intelligence with a hint of deeply buried sexuality.

GRIFFIN
(to Rico)
Ah, Rico. I think you know Doctor Hayden?

RICO
(carefully)
Yes. She's the bitch who testified before the Council that I was insane... and therefore... innocent. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 87

ILSA
I was trying to help you.

RICO
What you did was insult me. I knew exactly what I was doing. Then... and now.

ILSA
Really?

Their eye contact is electric. Griffin smiles - ILSA is not only going to keep an eye on Rico, she is almost like a gift.

GRIFFIN
Miss Hayden has been a loyal supporter of this project for a long time: she's kept it alive for me. I'm sure you'll find her expertise... invaluable.

ILSA
(looking at the dark machinery)
It won't be up and running without a complete retrofit.

She thrusts a computerized memopad into Rico's hands. He's annoyed until he sees how accurate it is. Then he's dismayed.

RICO
(reading)
Inducers, nitrogen coils, nano-pumps... hell, why don't we just nuke the place and start over?

GRIFFIN
There's a middle course, I think. I can pull all this from Mega-City hospital. They won't even know it's gone. When can you be on-line?

RICO
If you really can get these things, tomorrow -

ILSA
Tomorrow, provided these items are -

Rico and Ilsa look at each other sharply. It's not clear to us - or them - if they resent each other... or are intrigued by each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2) 87

RICO
- but "On-line" won't mean drok if you can't get into Central's Janus files. They're still security locked.

GRIFFIN
Leave that to me. Meanwhile you have work to do... on the streets. Ilsa will help you.

RICO
I don't need any help.

ILSA
(to Griffin)
I thought you said he was created here by the finest scientists in Mega-City. A "bold experiment".
(dismissive)
He's a petulant child.

GRIFFIN
Let's not bicker. We're all committed to the same thing. Ending the squalor and inefficiency of our world. And replacing it with a new society.. an ordered society.

RICO
You'll have your New Order, Griffin.

Rico winks at Ilsa, turns, whistles at the robot like it's a dog.

RICO
C'mon, Fido. Walkies.

CUT TO:

88 OMITTED 88

89 INT. RUINED COURTHOUSE - NIGHT 89

Fergie and Dredd are hanging by their handcuffs from a pole which in turn has been set on the crossbeams of this ruined building. Fergie is unconscious. Dredd, awakened by the crawl of a MOONBEAM over his face, stirs, looks around.

TWO OF THE ANGELS - NEARBY - HIS POV

They're going through gear and equipment scavenged from the shuttle wreck. We have a sense of the other Angels just O.S., where we HEAR an O.S. SCREAM.

Fergie wakes with a start, REACTS to the dramatic shafts of moonlight raking the cathedral ceiling.

FERGIE
Uh, am I dead? I'm dead!
(seeing Dredd)
And in hell.

PA ANGEL
Awake. Good.
(off the body)
We're running out of sinners.

Reverend Angel and his sons come forward, throw down the BODY of the Shuttle Guard they have just killed.

FERGIE
Oh - my - God. Dredd, do something.

The Angel gang stops. Pa notices the tattoo on Dredd's arm: the Judge emblem. He can't believe his luck.

PA ANGEL
Dredd? Well, now: can it be the great man of the law himself?

Dredd stares at him - unmoved.

Pa laughs and throws him arms skyward --

PA ANGEL
(nonplussed)
Oh, we are blessed indeed, O Lord! All we humbly sought from the craft you guided to us was food and sustenance. But ye have delivered our great enemy into our hands.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

89

PA ANGEL (Cont'd)
(in Dredd's face)
Judge Rat Dredd.

DREDD
You're all under arrest.

MEAN
Is that so! Let me crush him, Pa!

FERGIE
We're not together.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2) 89

They all laugh - except Fergie. Mean Machine moves forward. There is a dial on his head with settings 1-4: mean; surly; vicious; brutal - the Reverend moves it to 1.

PA
Allow me to introduce you to my family. There's Link.

LINK
Bite me.

PA
My youngest - Junior.

JUNIOR
Howdy.

PA
And this here's, Mean. Had an accident as a child... The Cursed Earth's a hard place for young folk - I've got him on one at the moment, I don't suggest you make him angry. Sorry my youngest son, Fink can't be here, but then you killed him, didn't you Dredd?

DREDD
(controlled anger)
The legendary Angel Family. Cursed Earth pirates - scavengers - scumbags... Did I miss something?

FERGIE
That'll win them over.

PA ANGEL
All true, all true. Welcome.

Mean lifts his mechanical arm to Dredd's face - a jagged dagger springs out. He runs the blade down the front of Dredd's prison shirt -- slitting the cloth -- drawing blood -- The tendons in Dredd's cheeks tense -- but he does not cry out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3) 89

PA ANGEL
Sad, though. You still put your faith in a false Law, instead of the one True Law! The Almighty.

Reverend Angel motions to Mean, who cranks his dial up to 2 and headbutts Dredd a second time.

JUNIOR
Let me kill him, Pa. I want his ears.

LINK
I get the teeth first.

Mean puts a knife to Dredd's tattoo.

MEAN
No. I want the pretty picture. Then I'll crush him - real slow.

FERGIE
(hopeful)
Hallelujah, brother!

Dredd looks at Fergie suspiciously... Pa Angel looks at him with odd interest.

REVEREND ANGEL
Wait a second. Can it be? Can it be, that from the City of the Fallen, there is one of the Faithful!

FERGIE
Amen, brother! Say it!

DREDD
Ah... Fergie...

REVEREND ANGEL
Boys, I believe we have a Believer in the gallery. Cut him down!

FERGIE
Go tell it on the Mountain!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

89

FAVORING FERGIE

He smiles as the Angels start to release him.

FERGIE
Well, Dredd. The Law doesn't make mistakes, but I'm free, and you're toast.

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED: (5) 89

DREDD
Actually, you're toast: Forgot to mention it, they're also cannibals.

Reverend Angel turns Mean's dial up to 3.

PA ANGEL
It's been fun, law man.

The beast SLAMS his metal cranium into Dredd's forehead --

JUNIOR
Fresh meat!

As Fergie's expression changes, they CUT HIM DOWN. CAMERA RAKES to the Angels' campfire - which has a spit over it - the size of a human being!

LINK
(to Fergie)
You're cute.

PA ANGEL
Prepare the Supplicant for Sacrifice!

FERGIE
Oh, crud! I'm not succulent! I'm not succulent, look, I've got excema -

REVEREND ANGEL
And Mean - Finish Dredd -!

MEAN
My pleasure.

Mean breaks into a big smile, nods, turns the dial on his head to 4, and turns back -- He takes a big swing, and lets the meanest ever headbutt fly.

DREDD like lightning lifts his whole body weight up. Mean goes flying into the wooden pole behind, cracking his skull wide open.

KEE-RACKK-K-! Dredd and the pole fall to the floor. He throws the ropes off his wrists --

Mean is starting to get to his feet -- Dredd slides past him, twisting the dial on his head down to 1 -- continues towards --

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (6) 89

THE ANGELS

Drop Fergie -- he scrambles away -- rush Dredd! Dredd doesn't wait for them to reach him - he charges!

REVEREND ANGEL

Cranks Mean's dial back up to 4 -- Mean starts to move --

DREDD

Sweeps past, twisting the dial back to 1, Mean drops to his knees --

FERGIE

Scampers away, trying to get to the back exit.

JUNIOR ANGEL

Draws his pistol: Dredd is too quick, punching him to the floor as he grabs it off him. As Link rushes forward, Dredd blasts him, his dead weight lands on Dredd with a thud.

REVEREND ANGEL

Raises the metal shaft he has used over his head - turns it point downwards like a spear. Suddenly - BLAM - BLAM!!! Reverend Angel is blown backwards.

90 JUDGE HUNTERS 90

Pour into the building from all sides, aiming for Dredd. BER-RAPPPP! He swings up on the beam again as the wall explodes under him.

He pulls himself up onto the wooden balcony and runs, as the floor is chewed up beneath his feet. The balcony breaks...

LEAD JUDGE HUNTER

gets under the balcony - Dredd leaps from it as it collapses. He lands on the waiting Hunter, twisting and cracking his arm, * then knocking him down like a Ninja. *

REAR JUDGE HUNTERS

charge Dredd: from nowhere, he is up again, taking one Hunter by force, swinging him around so he shoots his partner, then * stripping the gun from him, slamming the butt into his face. *

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED: 90

FERGIE - IN HIDING

can't believe it. This man is a killing machine. Fergie goes for the exit, but TWO JUDGE HUNTERS stand above him. *

FERGIE
I surrender! I surrender!

THIRD JUDGE HUNTER
Too late.

He aims at Fergie!

BLAM-BLAM-! Dredd is up again - but he aims for the legs. They fall to the floor. Dredd dives over the rubble and THWACK! knocks them out. *

FERGIE
Why didn't you kill them? *

DREDD
Because I'm innocent, remember? *

Calming down from his battle frenzy, he throws down the gun. *

FERGIE
(cocky)
Yeh well, I was ready to jump in, Dredd, but you know, you had it under control. *

Behind him, a black figure suddenly moves - Fergie sees it and gets up.

FERGIE
Dredd!

Dredd turns - a hunter is up and aiming. The Hunter squeezes his trigger - BLAM! The Hunter himself is hit!

91 OMITTED 91

92 REVERSE ANGLE 92

A FIGURE silhouetted in the Courtroom door FIRES at the same moment. The Hunter falls, dead. Dredd looks at the new arrival... his hat... his long duster coat...

DREDD
Fargo?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

92

We see Fargo pleased with himself, his shotgun smoking. SUDDENLY, his expression changes to one of extreme pain as he is lifted off his feet.

SPLORTCH -!! Mean Machine runs Fargo through with his mechanical arm, the dial on his head stuck on four. He lifts Fargo in the air screaming.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2) 92

Dredd leaps for the Hunter's weapon, and blasts Mean, who is wounded and charges into the darkness. Fargo falls to the floor, BLOOD welling on his coat. As he sags, Dredd and Fergie rush foward.

CUT TO:

93 INT. ACADEMY CLASSROOM - NIGHT 93

Olmeyer is at a graphics work station with his arms folded across his chest. Hershey glares at him.

HERSHEY
The Dance? You want me to go to the Goddamn Junior Dance?

OLMEYER
I've given up on the centerfold. I'll settle for a date.

HERSHEY
We're trying to prove Judge Dredd's, innocence here. I can't believe you're blackmailing me with this now.

OLMEYER
I'll never get another chance this good.
(looks at console)
It's almost through processing the viewie.
(shit eating grin)
Well? Do we have a deal?

Her eyes narrow to slits. Instead of what she'd <u>like</u> to tell him., she says --

HERSHEY
(through her teeth)
Yes.

OLMEYER
Low cut dress?

HERSHEY
Yes! Just do it!

OLMEYER
(cocky)
Graphics Analysis coming up... now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 93

He hits a control dramatically. The screen comes up... shows the PICTURE OF BABY DREDD AND PARENTS. Hershey stares at it in disbelief.

HERSHEY
Olmeyer, you stupid futz! You analyzed the wrong picture!

OLMEYER
I did?

She gropes around on the desk, finds the viewie frame with the shot of Dredd and Rico.

HERSHEY
This one. You were supposed to do this one! You just wasted three hours! I can't believe --

The computer BEEPS. MESSAGES run by the bottom of the screen.

OLMEYER
If it's the wrong picture, why is it a fake?

HERSHEY
What?

OLMEYER
It's full of anomalies -- Really clever ones, too... somebody must have used a CGI terminal and a scan quadrupler to make this. State of the art twenty years ago.

He looks at the image, uses the mouse.

HERSHEY
You mean... it's not real?

OLMEYER
Look. I'll drop out all the artificial pixels.

Hershey's eyes widen in shock as, one by one, the PICTURE ELEMENTS DISAPPEAR, dropping down out of the bottom of the frame -- scan line by scan line until all that's left...

OLMEYER
Sky. Foreground. House. Parents... All fake.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED: (2) 93

OLMEYER (Cont'd)
(turning)
The only thing that's real is the baby.

She's in shock.

CUT TO:

94 INT. CURSED EARTH COURTHOUSE - NIGHT 94

Fargo lies near the judge's bench. Dredd has dressed his wound and made him as comfortable as possible.

FARGO
Thirsty.

DREDD
(to Fergie)
Find some water.

Fergie hurries away. Fargo looks up at the Statue of Justice weighing her scales above them.

FARGO
Ah, the blind lady.

Dredd looks at the strange statue, not understanding.

DREDD
Who is she?

FARGO
Justice. Before your time. She treated everyone the same. No favors. No secrets. The jury sat there. Ordinary people. They decided. Not us. We should never have taken justice out of their hands.

DREDD
No. You had to. You brought order to chaos.

FARGO
Yes. That we did. Solved many problems, and created many more.

Dredd looks at him, confused.

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED: (2) 94

FARGO
I'm dying. This is a good place to do it. Closest thing to a church I know. *

He pulls Dredd close. Speaking desperately against the pain.

FARGO
To be a Judge, Joseph, perhaps too much power in one person's hands. I once tried to compensate -- create the perfect Judge. We called it Janus. * * * * * *

Dredd looks puzzled. *

FARGO
Four decades ago DNA samples were taken from the original Council. One was chosen. Mine. We altered it to enhance the best qualities and screen out the worst. Weaknesses. Frailties.
(a whisper)
We created you.

Dredd stares at Fargo. Stunned.

FARGO
Yes.

DREDD
But I had real parents. *

FARGO
No. *

DREDD
At the Academy they told me they were killed when I was very young. *

FARGO
A lie.

DREDD
I have a picture of them.

FARGO
(angry at himself)
A fake! We lied to both of you!!!

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED: (3) 94

DREDD
Both?

Fargo nods. His strength is ebbing. Fergie rushes back in with a tin cup of water. Dredd quickly lifts it to Fargo's lips. He sips.

FARGO
There was another created in the experiment. But something went wrong. Genetically mutated into the perfect criminal.

Dredd's mind is blowing.

DREDD
I have a brother?

FARGO
You were best friends at the Academy. Star pupils. Then he turned. And for his crimes you judged him.

DREDD
(accusingly)
Rico...? You let me judge my brother and never told me?!

FARGO
I couldn't. You were like a son to me.

DREDD
(shouting)
A son? My whole life is a lie!

Dredd angrily knocks the cup away. Fargo gazes at him guiltily.

FARGO
Rico had to be killed. To protect you. To protect the city.

DREDD
To protect yourself.

Fargo nods weakly, the truth stinging.

FARGO
Yes. All of us.

Suddenly it hits Dredd. And the realization stuns him.

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED: (4) 94

DREDD
He's not dead.

FARGO
(shakes his head no)
I signed the order myself. Saw the report.

DREDD
I didn't kill Hammond. He did and it was his DNA that convicted me -it was him!

Fargo's eyes fill with realization.

FARGO
Then it was Griffin. We've both been deceived. I'm so sorry, Joseph.

Fargo starts coughing. His death rattle. Dredd cradles him in his arms.

DREDD
Don't die.

FARGO
...Rico's killed me and destroyed you. Find him.

Fargo dies. Dredd holds him. His eyes fill with anguish.

DISSOLVE TO:

95 OMITTED 95

THE FOLLOWING THREE SCENES ARE INTERCUT:

96 MEGA-CITY STREET - DAY 96

A squad of Judges on Lawmasters rides into SHOT.

DISPATCHER'S VOICE
(futzed)
All Judges: Report unrest code D-924 downtown sector 12 back-up requested.

The Judges stop and dismount outside a bank. They enter, careful, professional. Pause. BOOM!!! The bank EXPLODES, throwing glass, flame, and JUDGES' BODIES into the street.

CUT TO:

97 OMITTED 97

97A DOWNTOWN DARK ALLEYWAY - DAY 97A

Six Lawmasters park at the head of the alley - the Judges sweep the alley with batons, clearing away the bums and tramps.

The last Judge hears a noise, turns to see some metal shape move amongst the trash. The ABC robot rises, its eyes glowing. It shines its light on the Judges and raises its weapon. The Judges aren't quick enough - they are massacred.

CUT TO:

98 INT JUDGE'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY 98

Frenzied activity as several shifts double up. We move slowly from the showers with a Judge who moves to her locker. She's surprised to find it unlocked. Puzzled, she opens it -we SEE the odd PACKAGE too late - EXPLOSION.

99 EXT HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY 99

The EXPLOSION blossoms against the flank of the great metal eagle

CUT TO:

99A EXT DOWNTOWN ALLEYWAY - DAY - CONTINUING 99A

Two of the bums dressed in rags now walk over to the dead bodies who moved them on. They lower their hoods to reveal Dredd and Vasa. Rico smiles proudly at his work.

CUT TO:

100 EXT MEGA - CITY WALLS - BINOCULAR MATTE - DAY 100

FERGIE'S VOICE O/S
There's no way in, Dredd!

101 REVERSE ANGLE - EDGE OF CURSED EARTH - SUNSET 101

Dredd and Fergie are standing beside the Hunter's sand cruiser. Their faces are dry and their lips parched and they show the wear from this journey. Dredd has a pack of gear on his back and Fargo's Remington

Ignoring Fergie, he continues to peer at the Mega-City wall.

FERGIE
Hey, did you hear me? They don't have a welcome mat!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 101

DREDD
(lowering binoculars)
There's a way in: Six years ago two Cursed Earthers figured it out.

OVER THEIR SHOULDERS

Dredd points: Sure enough, there's a puff of FLAME at a VENT low on the wall. SMOKE rises into the sky. Then it stops.

DREDD
The vent from the city incinerator. There's a burst twice a minute. That means that there's 30 seconds for someone to run through the tube before it flames again.

FERGIE
And these Cursed Earthers, they made it through?

DREDD
Actually, they were fried. But the theory's sound. Let's go.

FOOM Another FIREBALL shoots out. Fergie stares at it, panicked, as Dredd starts forward.

CUT TO:

102 EXT MEGA-CITY STREET - NIGHT 102

SIRENS wail. FIRE burns around the corner. Several LAWMASTERS cruise past. Looters run away from them. Close to CAMERA, Hershey throws two PERPETRATORS against a fence, cuffs them to it.

HERSHEY
(into radio)
Dispatch, I'm in Green Quad, 4-11. Need pickup.

DISPATCH VOICE
We copy, Hershey. I have Central on line for you. Can you take it?

HERSHEY
Patch it through the Lawmaster.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 102

As she walks to her bike a drone can be heard, and the street lights around her flicker and fade for a second. She frowns, troubled, and mounts the Lawmaster. As she does, she notices something -her bike computer screen shows a layout of the bike with a red flashing circle below the fuel tank. Hershey looks down to see a device clamped below - it beeps.

Hershey dives from the bike. KABOOM! It shatters into a thousand flaming pieces.

CUT TO:

EXT. INCINERATOR CHUTE - NIGHT 102A

Fergie and Dredd balance on the chute's thin ledge. A FIREBALL ROLLS TOWARD THE CAMERA. Past us. As it disappears into the sky, Dredd and Fergie look at each other, both hearts beating.

DREDD
Ready?

FERGIE
(to himself)
No.

DREDD
(annoyed)
What's wrong?

FERGIE
What's wrong? Are you kidding? Did wearing that helmet all those years compress your brain? You're gonna get me killed!

DREDD
There's a maniac loose in the city.

FERGIE
There's one loose out here, too! Great time I'm having! The Shuttle crash, the Cursed Earth, cannibals and now fireballs up my ass! This is all your fault!

DREDD
My fault?

FERGIE
Yes! If you hadn't arrested me, I wouldn't be here in the first place!

(CONTINUED)

2A CONTINUED: 102A

Fergie sits down petulantly.

FERGIE
That's it. That's it. I'm through schlepping. I'm gonna sit here until I'm caught... or until you apologize.

DREDD
The Law doesn't apologize.

FERGIE
But that's just it. You're not a Judge anymore. Apologise.

DREDD
What's it matter?

FERGIE
Come on. No one's listening... do it. You've never said those words in your life. Just admit it. You owe it to me.

Dredd turns around, whips up the shotgun, points it at Fergie, then slowly lowers it.

DREDD
I... I'll review your case.

FERGIE
(it'll do)
"Review" is good. That's better. Almost human, my man.
(beat)
We can do it, right?

DREDD
Fergie, run!

Crouched over, they swing into the chute.

103 INT. CHUTE 103

They run for their lives.

FERGIE
(as he runs)
Thirty... twenty nine... twenty eight... twenty seven... twenty six... twenty five...

Fergie's already beginning to drop back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 103

DREDD
Stop counting!

FERGIE
(softer)
--nineteen... eighteen...
seventeen... sixteen...

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED:

DREDD 103

FAINT light starts to fall on him. Then he SEES it, up ahead -the lights of Mega-City! Dredd turns to look at -

FERGIE

still halfway back!

FERGIE
(panting)
Twelve... eleven -

He FALLS! He tries to get up. His SHIRT is caught on the conduit! He struggles, in a panic, but - keeps counting!

FERGIE
Ten! Oh, God. Mine! Dredd! Dredd! help me! EIGHT! FOR GOD'S SAKE-

He looks behind to see the fireball ignite and start to race towards him.

FERGIE
DREDD! DON'T LET ME FRY!!!

DREDD

Turns -- lifts the Remington towards Fergie and RACKS the slide

FERGIE
Um on second thought --

BOOM DREDD FIRES -!
Down at the grate beneath Fergie's feet -- the grate falls away -- Fergie hangs there a beat, and then his own weight rips his sleeve free and he falls down the duct --

Dredd leaps in after him -- Fireball swirling around him--!

104 OMITTED

104A EXT WALL - IN MEGA CITY - NIGHT 104A

Fergie is catapulted out of the duct opening, landing head first in a pile of ashes. He looks around.

FERGIE
I'm alive. I'm alive! Yes!

(CONTINUED)

A CONTINUED: 104A

He turns to see Dredd fall out behind him, also covered in ashes.

FERGIE
Oh. So are you.

CUT TO:

05 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT 105

Chief Justice Griffin, Council Judges McGruder, Esposito and Silver.

ESPOSITO
(stricken)
Latest casualty report. Ninety-six Judges have been assassinated.

MCGRUDER
Whoever's doing this knows all our procedures... our security measures... even our scrambled frequencies - !

ESPOSITO
With no Judges on the street riots are breaking out all over Mega City --

SILVER
We can't replace those Judges! Even if we put the Cadets on the street we won't be at full strength for years!

GRIFFIN
There is a solution.
(on their desperate looks)
Project Janus.

MCGRUDER
(furious)
Chief Justice Griffin, just mentioning that is grounds for impeachment.

SILVER
The Council tried to play God once before: it almost destroyed them!

(CONTINUED)

105 CONTINUED: 105

GRIFFIN
If this wholesale slaughter of Judges continues, there won't be a Council! Janus could -

ESPOSITO
Janus could what! A new batch of test tube babies won't solve this crisis! We don't need reliable Judges twenty years from now - we need them today!

GRIFFIN
Accelerated Growth Incubators are even more developed now. We could create adult subjects, fully grown and fully trained at birth. We could replace the Judges we've lost in a week!

MCGRUDER
Good God! What are you saying?

GRIFFIN
All I'm asking is that we unlock the Janus files. That way, we at least have an option.
(pause)
Please, let us find out. If the Council decides not to go forward... I'll accept that decision... and resign.

The Judges look at each other.

CUT TO:

106 INT. LOCKER ROOM - HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT 106

Technical staff are finishing up cleaning the wreckage from the explosion. The leader reports to a Judge. As the Judge leaves, he hears a noise behind the lockers, he stops, moves closer - around a corner... Fergie stands there with an uncomfortable grin, he waves. The Judge frowns, then from behind - WHACK! Dredd. Dredd starts to take off his uniform.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

106

FERGIE

slides down a locker... lost, no energy left.

FERGIE
(whispering)
Why not? What else can they do to me? I'm dead already.

Dredd looks up at him as he changes, almost smiles.

106 OMITTED

107 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT 107

108 Around the great table dais, they give their codes into Central's monitors. 108

JUDGE MCGRUDER
McGruder, Evelyne. Council Judge. Authorize access to file, code name Janus".

CENTRAL
Acknowledged.

ON SCREEN, GRAPHICS show DATA LOCKS being removed one by one.

JUDGE ESPOSITO
Esposito, Carlos. Council Judge. Authorize access to file, code name "Janus."

CENTRAL
Acknowledged.

SILVER
Silver, Gerald. Council Judge. Authorize access to file, code name "Janus".

CENTRAL
I have unanimous authorization for access to file, code name "Janus". Removing security blocks... NOW. Awaiting Password command from Presiding Chief Justice.

GRIFFIN

He's been waiting for this moment.

GRIFFIN
Password... Origin.

CENTRAL
Janus file open.

Griffin smiles. Moves in front of the machine, speaks tersely.

GRIFFIN
Central: Using current technology, how long would it take for Janus to produce a fully grown adult subject?

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED: 108

CENTRAL
Given the current state of genetic engineering an adult subject could be incubated in approximately eight hours.

ASTONISHMENT in the room.

CUT TO:

109 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE CORRIDOR - NIGHT 109

Dredd marches Fergie down the Halls corridor. Fergie drags behind and pulls faces. Dredd turns - Fergie drops it. Dredd looks away, and Fergie starts again.

ON JUDGE

They pass a Judge who slows then turns, watching them head to the council chambers.

110 INT COUNCIL CHAMBERS - RESUME 110

GRIFFIN
In what quantity?

CENTRAL
Laboratory #1 is equipped with a hundred. If fully operational, 700 subjects could be produced a week.

SILVER
My God. We could replace our losses in a day -

MCGRUDER
Why are we considering this?

ESPOSITO
This is inhuman.

GRIFFIN
No it is the answer --

ESPOSITO
It's madness -- it is not for this Council to play God --

GRIFFIN
We sit in judgement over man --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 110

MCGRUDER
No! Judge Griffin, please restore the Security Blocks.

110A INT. HALLS OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR 110A

Dredd gets to the doors, the Council's meeting inside, he can hear voices. The door is locked.

110B INT. CHAMBER CONTINUED 110B

GRIFFIN
It seems none of you have the force of will that these times require. Central: Leave Janus unlocked.

McGruder stands, furious.

MCGRUDER
Griffin, this is treason! You just sealed your fate!

GRIFFIN
No. You've just sealed yours. Rico!

Rico

steps into the room, an arm legth Assault rifle at his waist. He levels it --

111 EXT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT 111

Dredd is about to open the door with a blast from the shotgun when a HAND spins him around. It's the Judge who followed him!

JUDGE
Hey, Dredd! I thought it was y--

That's all he says before Dredd K.O.'s him! He lifts the shotgun again.

112 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - RESUME 112

MCGRUDER
(in shock)
Rico - !

All the Judges go for their Lawgivers. But it's too late. Rico OPENS FIRE on FULL AUTOMATIC. BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA --!!

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 112

GRIFFIN

Averts his eyes from the moment he orchestrated. Finally the gunfire STOPS. He looks. Rico stands, smoking gun in hand.

RICO
Who says politics is boring?

BOOM!! Dredd BLASTS the door open.

DREDD'S VOICE
NOOOOOOOO - !

Rico whirls, looks at

DREDD

Has arrived in time to see the murders! He SCREAMS in fury...

DREDD
MURDERING SON OF A ...!

GRIFFIN

tries to get a shot at Dredd, can't. Then Griffin hears ALARMS, SHOUTS, running footsteps. He steps between the brothers.

GRIFFIN
(to Rico)
No! Get out of here, now!

Sounds. People running, Rico obeys. He slips out.

DREDD
Griffin. You're under arrest.

GRIFFIN
Really?

For a moment we think he's going to shoot. Then he turns his gun - points it at his own arm - fires!

DREDD

totally thrown by the maneuver, he hesitates. Behind him, the Judge Hunters rush in, see the shocking scene: The dead council - the wounded Chief Justice clutching at his own bloody arm

GRIFFIN
Stop him! He just killed the entire council!

(CONTINUED)

112 CONTINUED: (2) 112

Dredd realizes he's fucked. He turns, runs. The Judge Hunters pause near their wounded leader, who bravely waves them on. They tear after Dredd like wolves.

113 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 113

Dredd tears around the corner. Fergie appears from behind the hiding place he ducked into at the first shots!

FERGIE
Dredd! Tell them I'm innocent!

BULLETS rip up the wall nearby! Dredd drags him along. They CRASH through doors marked "ACADEMY CLASSROOMS".

114 INT. ACADEMY TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT 114

BULLETS whiz past Dredd and Fergie's heads. They enter the training center and Dredd runs right towards the Mark IV Lawmaster! Leaps into the saddle and kicks over the engine! Fergie holds onto Dredd! The pursuing guards appear. Dredd hits the bike computer -ACTIVE! The wheels lift up into the body - the engine whirrs.

DREDD
C'mon baby, work for me.

BIKE - A splutter, a shake.

FERGIE
What's wrong with this thing?

The Judges and Guards are gaining, BLASTING away.

AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR

A wall. No way out.

FERGIE
Where are you going?!

ON THE BIKE

Dredd hits the bike canons - the two fenders fold out to reveal hi-tech side arms.

BIKE - NEW ANGLE

CANNONS click into view.... FIRE! The bike moves forward.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

114

BACK TO SCENE

BLAM! a HOLE is blasted in the wall! Now we SEE Mega-City -hundreds of stories below us!

FERGIE
Dredd..? Dredd, you're not gonna--

Dredd hits the button marked "AERIAL MODE". There's a BEEP and the SOUND FX we heard earlier... when the flying prototype failed.

DREDD
(a prayer)
Please work.

They pick up speed - moving towards the drop. The indifferent half hearted SOUND of the Aerial Mode lifters isn't encouraging. They just GROAN.

DREDD
Pleaseworkpleaseworkpleasework--

FERGIE
OhGodohGodohGodohGod --

They pick up speed - the wall explodes with gunfire around them, as - CRASH! They go through the irregular hole!

EXT ACADEMY - NIGHT

115

Dredd and Fergie fly out of the building on the Lawmaster Mark II. Barely hanging on, they fall silently through the air, glass spinning all around them. The bike begins to turn a somersault.

BIKE COMPUTER - 'Aerial mode' flashes.

DREDD
Pleasssssssssse -

The busy street below rushes towards them.

FERGIE
We're going to die!

And then - Aerial Mode Lifters kick in 'ON LINE'. The flying motorcycle comes out of its roll with a BLAST of rockets - and roars upwards!

116 INT. ACADEMY TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT 116

The Judge Hunters REACT as the bike disappears in an instant, streaking across the sky like a comet! Then, they turn.... surprisingly nonplussed!

CUT TO:

117 DREDD AND FERGIE - ABOARD THE CYCLE - FLYING 117

Fergie struggles to stay aboard.

FERGIE
Dredd! Where's the seat belt!

DREDD
Be quiet! I'm still trying to figure this out!

FERGIE
I won't even ask about the air bag.

Fergie looks over his shoulder, glad to escape. But his face drops

WHIZZ. WHIZZ. WHIZZ. The three Judge Hunters zoom from around the back of the building, all on flying bikes. They turn in formation in pursuit.

DREDD
(looking)
Great.

FERGIE
Oh shit! Whatta we do? Oh, shit!

Dredd twists the throttle. Fergie FALLS from the saddle, holds onto Dredd's belt! All four bikes whizz through the skyline, narrowly missing other traffic and roadworks.

UP AHEAD

is a huge video poster. Dredd heads straight for it; Fergie buries his head in Dredd's back.

Dredd looks behind to see them still on his tail, then hands Fergie the shotgun.

DREDD
(shouting over the wind)
Cover our rear!

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 117

FERGIE
(clumsily taking it)
But... I never shot a gun in my life!

DREDD
What the hell kind of criminal are you?

FERGIE
A nice criminal!

DREDD
Shoot!

Fergie shoots and misses the leading hunter.

DREDD
Again.

BACK TO SCENE

Fergie pulls the trigger. CLICK.

DREDD
What happened?

FERGIE
The batteries must be dead!

DREDD
You have to take off the safety, you moron!

FERGIE
Now he tells me...

He struggles with the lever. Click. Then... BOOM! BOOM! A HIT Fergie's shot damages the furthest hunter's bike computer; smoke and sparks fly off.

A VIDEO POSTER

flickering on and off. When on hard 3D lazers zap together with force.

DREDD AND FERGIE

WHOOSH! They go right through the 3D hologram poster.

Hunter #1 follows, Hunter #2 turns and twists 90 degrees to the side, shooting under it -

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED: (2)

117

Hunter #3 can't get the bike to move quickly enough - its computer reads DAMAGE. He screams as KABOOM! He smashes straight into it as the image and lazer come together. He's like a fly caught in a very big zapper. The explosion is massive. Dredd and the two remaining bikes fly away from the fireball like shrapnel.

Fergie shrugs, cocky.

FERGIE
I meant to do that.

BLAM BLAM BLAM! FLAK explodes close enough to singe their hair!

Then - SMASH! They're hit, smoke bellows from their bike. Dredd has no choice but to head down.

FERGIE
Are you crazy, Dredd? There're people down there.

We fly down into a busy Mega City street - not people -- but FLEEING PEOPLE -- the CHAOS in the streets that Rico's slaughter of the Judges has wrought. They scream, scattering as Dredd's cycle whizzes by --

FERGIE
Hey -- I know that guy -- why don't you just drop me off --

Dredd looks back at him.

FERGIE
Nevermind.

The Judge Hunters land behind them, less sympathetic to the pedestrians. Bike canons blaring, anyone in the way is toast. Shop windows smash - cars crash. Dredd speeds towards the end of the street - a solid wall.

FERGIE
Dredd... er, Dredd, that's a brick wall.

The Judge Hunters see the dead end - they think they have him. Inches from the wall, Fergie covers his face. Dredd pulls the bike with all his strength.

FERGIE
A - brick - wall - Nooooo!

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (3) 117

SCREEETCH --
Dredd SWOOPS STRAIGHT UP THE WALL --

Hunter #2 looks up, stunned -- looks back down in time to:
SMASSSH -!! Eat bricks. CRASHES through the wall into --

7A INT. ELDERLY COUPLE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 117A

An elderly couple's glued to the visi-screen as the Judge Hunter's bike plows to a stop in the middle of the living room.

7B ABOVE THE CITY 117B

Hunter #3 pulls up and keeps shooting. Dredd's bike takes another hit, and slows down. Hunter #1 pulls up beside them.

There is nothing Dredd can do - the Hunter draws his Lawgiver and aims.

DREDD
Steer --

FERGIE
What?

DREDD
Steer!

FERGIE
But!

Dredd leaps off, just catching the Hunter's pipework, which is so hot it burns his hands. The Hunter is amazed, having no time to react as Dredd's hand grabs him by the belt and pulls him off - falling thousands of feet.

Dredd sits up and swerves the Hunter's bike.

MEANWHILE

Fergie is left on the damaged and smoking bike, heading straight towards a building top - he suddenly turns religious, crossing himself furiously. The building speeds towards him - closer, closer. We can see the brickwork as...

DREDD'S HAND

Plucks him off the bike from above. The damaged bike smashes into the concrete with an explosion, as Dredd on the hunter's bike pulls the dangling Fergie on board.

Dredd almost manages a smile as Fergie looks back at the fireball from the building.

(CONTINUED)

B CONTINUED: 117B

FERGIE
Never again. Never driving with you again, you hear me? Never.

The bike shoots off into the moonlit city like a shooting star.

118 INT. GRIFFIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 118

Griffin, bandaged, turns as Rico comes out of hiding.

RICO
Why didn't you kill him when you had the chance?

GRIFFIN
He'll keep the street Judges preoccupied while we work on Janus.
(turning)
Central. Prepare the Janus Lab for full operation. And... while you're at it... I'd like to appoint Judge Rico to the Council.

CENTRAL
(guarded)
That may present some legal difficulties, since Judge Rico is listed as being executed 9 years ago.

GRIFFIN
Your listing is obviously an error.

CENTRAL
Central does not make errors. Judge Rico must have been executed.

RICO
I got better.

CUT TO:

119 INT. HERSHEY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 119

Moving carefully, Dredd and Fergie walk down the corridor. Dredd's still in the stolen uniform.

They come to a nameplate with Hershey's name on it. We WIDEN. The door has been forced open. Dredd and Fergie look at each other. Dredd swings the Remington out of hiding, steps inside.

120 INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT 120

A total wreck. All the furniture has been overturned, and her computer smashed.

FERGIE
I guess you're out of friends, Dredd.

Dredd moves into a corridor leading to a bedroom. It is dark.

O/S FERGIE
Look, let's get back to the lower levels where I know how to survive.

Dredd senses something - then from the shadows, WHACK! Dredd is thrown against the wall. A gun in his face.

HERSHEY
You know the drill. Hands against the wall.

She is beaten up from the blast, angry and confused.

DREDD
Hershey, I thought they...

HERSHEY
Thought they what? Killed me? Thought or hoped?

DREDD
What happened?

HERSHEY
Why don't you tell me? They're dying out there, Dredd. A hundred and eight Judges in 48 hours. What the hell is going on?

Dredd is lost - exhausted and broken, he doesn't know where to start

DREDD
You don't think I'm part of this?

HERSHEY
I don't even know who - or what -you are any more.

DREDD
(quietly)
I would never hurt you, Hershey.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 120

She relaxes her hold on him. Throws something down.

VIEWIE

It's the picture of Dredd and Rico.

HERSHEY
So, tell me about him, Dredd. Make me believe in you again the way I did when I defended you.

DREDD
His name is Rico... my brother... He was the best Judge on the street. The smartest, most dedicated. But he became insane -- Said Judges should rule not serve - He became more dangerous than any criminal. A lot of men died trying to stop him. I had to judge him.

HERSHEY
And he's doing all of this?

DREDD
... with Griffin.

HERSHEY
Griffin? We have to notify the Council.

DREDD
No. There is no Council, Hershey: They were all murdered an hour ago.

FERGIE
Perhaps I could fix this terminal and get through to Central.

HERSHEY

She's been on her feet for days and this is the last psychic blow. She sags. Dredd catches her.

CUT TO:

1 OMITTED 121

22 INT. JANUS LAB - NIGHT 122

Rico is at the main control console. The Robot watches Ilsa closely as she enters.

(CONTINUED)

122 CONTINUED: 122

CENTRAL
The DNA sample has been taken out of frozen stasis. I am ready to begin the cloning process.

RICO
(to Ilsa)
Slight change of plans, Central. I want to purge that DNA sample.

Ilsa looks up startled as the computer WHIRRS.

ILSA
What are you doing?

He ignores her.

RICO
Central, activate the DNA sampling console.

Behind Rico, another CONSOLE lights up. Rico crosses to it.

CENTRAL
The sampling console is ready.

Rico rips his sleeve open to the elbow... sits down... puts his upturned arm in a special steel hollow. CHUNG! CLAMPS close, hold his arm down.

RICO
Central. Take DNA sample... now!

A DRILL LIKE DEVICE descends with a frightening grind and STABS right into his arm!

ILSA

Jumps startled - a fleck of BLOOD splatters on her clothes-

ILSA
This wasn't part of our plan. Judge Griffin never authorized us to -

RICO
(grabbing her)
Griffin got to be my keeper because he put me behind bars. What's your excuse?

(CONTINUED)

122 CONTINUED: (2) 122

ILSA
(pulling away)
Griffin is a brilliant man. He's going to turn Mega-City around-

RICO
Griffin is a file clerk. All he's doing is exploiting my genius. And yours. We're the titans. He's a dwarf.

ILSA
It was a mistake to keep you alive.

RICO
I am the future.

ILSA
You're insane.

He moves in closer to her. She backs up -- stopped by the wall of machinery behind her.

RICO
You didn't believe that when you said it at my trial.
(with a grin)
And you don't believe it now.

She drops her frown and looks deep into his eyes. *

RICO *
You're a beautiful woman, Ilsa *
- perhaps we should share this *
moment - others could do worse *
than your image. *

He reaches out - touches his own blood on her sleeve - wipes * it on her cheek -- Then her lips. She LICKS THE BLOOD -- Sucks * his fingers into her mouth! Beast! He pulls her into his arms, * kisses her! *

CUT TO:

123 INT HERSHEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 123 *

Dredd sits with Hershey on the bed. Both are tired, beaten * and bruised. Visible through the door to the living room is * Fergie, working on the computer terminal. *

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED: 123

HERSHEY
(wryly)
That's why the DNA convicted you. You and Rico are...

DREDD
The same. Clones. Inhuman. Defective. He just broke down first.

HERSHEY
No!

DREDD
You said I had no feelings, no emotions. Now you know why.

HERSHEY
(gently)
Dredd. The Janus project didn't do that to you. You did that to yourself.

Dredd faces her, surprised. He realizes she's right. Fergie enters - interrupting.

FERGIE
Sorry guys. I'm getting nowhere with your terminal, but I fixed your microwave. Is this a bad time?

FERGIE
Look, I tried dialing into everything I could think of looking for this Janus thing. I just isn't in the program. Nothing. Nowhere.

HERSHEY
If Janus is back on line it's gonna need a lot of power.

Fergie shakes his head no.

FERGIE
Tried that. No new allocations for something that big. Even under an alias.

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED: 2 123

Dredd thinks.

DREDD
No. They wouldn't risk putting it on the net. But it's still got to use power. They'd steal it. From everything around.
(suddenly)
Check the sectors for recent blackouts. Sudden power surges.

Fergie's fingers fly over the keyboard as he nods excitedly.

FERGIE
Good idea, yeh -- I can do that.

HERSHEY
thinking
Wait a second -- Just before they blew up my Lawmaster in Sector 4, there was a power surge at least three blocks wide - a big one. That's my beat, I know it well. The last time I felt something like that, the whole power grid in that area was shut down, so.

She's onto something. Dredd nods. Finishes her thought.

DREDD
When they relocated the Statue of Liberty.
(realizing)
They set her right on top of it.

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED: (3) 123

HERSHEY
If there were an irregular signal in that area, we would be able to pick it up.

DREDD
You coming? *

Dredd smiles. He's proud of her. *

FERGIE
(interrupting)
Great. I'd like to leave. Judge Hunters any second - you know pain, death, mayhem. * *

124 OMITTED 124 thru 128

129 DOOR TO JANUS LAB - NIGHT 129

Griffin enters, sees Rico and Ilsa. Crosses quickly towards them. We notice - but Griffin doesn't - that there is a whole new electricity between the two of them.

GRIFFIN
Dredd got away from the Hunters.

RICO
Don't worry. He's going to be seriously outnumbered. Right, Central?

CENTRAL
Affirmative, Council Judge Rico. The new DNA sample has been multi-plexed and the gametes are already dividing. *

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

129

GRIFFIN
(stunned)
New sample..? What the hell's going on?

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED: 129

RICO
Hey, that old DNA was in there for over 30 years. Sooner or later you gotta clean out the fridge.

GRIFFIN
(furious)
That sample was created from the finest specimens on the Council of Judges! What did you replace it with?

Rico just smiles.

GRIFFIN
My God. You didn't --?

RICO
Congratulate me, I'm going to be a father.

Rico walks away from him, past Ilsa, touching her arm. She smiles a wicked smile. Griffin looks at her, not understanding.

GRIFFIN
Rico. You don't know what you're doing! The sample has to be pure of defects, or the accelerators will form mutations. It's what happened before.

RICO
That's why Dredd's so ugly.

GRIFFIN
No, you, for God's sake, listen! You were defective. Your copies will be even more defective!

RICO
(tempered)
You're lying! All you care about is control! The Janus Judges won't be your puppets you want... they'll be my brothers and sisters, they'll follow me!

GRIFFIN
(voice hushed)
...sisters?

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (3)

129

RICO
While I'm at it I'm going to breed some more... the old fashioned way.

GRIFFIN

Looks from Rico to Ilsa and back again, suddenly seeing clearly for the first time what he's created here...

CLUNK! Behind him stands the Robot, its head and burning red eyes craning down towards him with a growl.

GRIFFIN
You... you're with him on this...?

ILSA
You've never understood the full potential of this opportunity. This project needs vision, not politics.

Griffin draws his gun! But it has barely cleared the holster when the ABC robot grabs Griffin's wrist! It plucks the weapon from his hand as if he's a child, hangs on to him!

The robot grabs Griffin with its other hand. He's completely off the ground.

RICO
I'm alive, Griffin -- flesh and blood. Not one of your brainwashed machines you call Judges, but a real human.

GRIFFIN
(struggling)
Let me go! Central! Help me!

CENTRAL
I'm sorry, Chief Justice. The ABC robot is not tied into my main processor.

RICO
That's right, Griff. You've gotta get into this hi-tech stuff. Robot: Tear off Judge Griffin's arms and legs. Save his head for last.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

129

Griffin SCREAMS with fear - and then, as we move in on Rico and Ilsa, and we SEE the horrible SHADOWS on the wall, the screams become far, far worse.

(CONTINUED)

129 CONTINUED: (3)

Rico watches with wincing amusement, like a spectator at a particularly rough hockey game; Ilsa watches with a sick fascination and awe.

RICO
(smiling)
Central, Chief Justice Griffin has retired - therefore, I believe, in his absence I must assume his responsibilities. Send in the Clones.

CUT TO:

130 EXT. RED QUAD, SECTION 5 - SOMEWHERE UP HIGH - NIGHT

The oldest part of the city, with buildings and architecture from our era and even earlier. The Flying Lawmaster has just landed on a rubble-strewn surface. Hershey checks her Lawgiver.

Dredd thumbs shells into the Remington, then racks the slide one handed like a Western Hero.

FERGIE
I'll stay here and watch the bike-

DREDD
(dragging him forward)
We might need you to shut down the Janus system.

FERGIE
I knew you were gonna say that.

DREDD
(to Hershey)
Down there?

HERSHEY
(checking SCANNER)
Down there.

They all shine their torches to illuminate a large spiral staircase.

INT. BUILDING - NIGHT 131

Dredd, Hershey and Fergie move down through the long-neglected building. BATS flutter past. Only Fergie ducks.

HERSHEY
Power surge this way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

131

REVERSE ANGLE

Before them are large steel doors.

HERSHEY
(puzzled)
No wait, it moved... over to...

As she turns to look around, from nowhere, the ABC Robot LUNGES OUT OF THE SHADOWS, grabs her off her feet! She drops her Lawgiver and scanner!

HERSHEY
DREDD!

The robot holds Hershey with one hand - opens FIRE with the other! Fergie is hit! Dredd throws the wounded hacker to relative safety - swings up the ancient Remington - FIRES at the robot!

HERSHEY - IN THE ROBOT'S GRASP

She flinches even though she knows Dredd is aiming around her. But Dredd's bullets barely dent the robot! He moves forward

DREDD AND THE ABC

Man and robot advance on each other like Hong Kong gunmen, BLASTING AWAY. Dredd's shots BOUNCE off the Robot's armor! At the same time, some of the Robot's shots miss Dredd - some bounce off Dredd's armor - and one shot wings Dredd's shoulder. But Dredd KEEPS ON COMING!

THE ROBOT'S LEG

A bullet hits a tendon-like CONTROL WIRE! It SNAPS! With an electronic SCREAM the robot GOES DOWN! But it hangs onto Hershey. Suddenly, a PNEUMATIC DOOR slides OPEN.

Rico and Ilsa are there, backlit. Both armed.

RICO
Enough. Dredd. Drop your gun.

DREDD
No.
(starting to aim)
Edsel here still has another kneecap -

The ROBOT looks sharply at Dredd.

(CONTINUED)

131 CONTINUED: (2) 131

RICO
Amusing. Robot. On a count of three... break Judge Hershey's neck. One... two...

DREDD
Hershey?

HERSHEY
I'm alright.

Dredd drops the Remington beside Hershey's Lawgiver.

RICO
How human. You've become a romantic, brother --

Ilsa appoaches the weapons. She picks up the REMINGTON -starts to reach for the Lawgiver-

DREDD AND HERSHEY

sneak a glance towards each other...

BACK TO SCENE

Suddenly Ilsa grins. Laughs... and kicks it away.

RICO
She's such a tease.
(harsher)
Inside, now.
(to robot)
If they move, crush them.

Dredd is taken away. CHUNG. The Pneumatic door closes, leaving Hershey and Fergie in darkness with the robot.

132 INT. JANUS LAB - WITH DREDD 132

He's marched between Rico and Ilsa.

ILSA
He looks like you.

RICO
He is a lot like me.

DREDD
I'm nothing like you.

(CONTINUED)

132 CONTINUED: 132

RICO
Wrong, the only difference between us is that you destroyed your life to embrace the law. I destroyed the law to embrace life.
(pods decend)
And talking of life... behold, the future.

Dredd watches the lab fully activate itself. Hundreds of clones growing around him.

RICO
This is where we were born, brother! Can you feel it? You see Joseph...

Dredd stares at a mutant Rico - it's eyes open.

RICO
You know all along you were different.

CUT TO:

133 INT. JANUS LAB - LANDING - NIGHT 133

The ABC stands guard, Hershey still in its metal grip. She struggles but can't free herself.

Fergie groans, opens his eyes.

HERSHEY
Fergie, are you alive?

FERGIE
Unfortunately, yes.

He presses one hand against his wound - then sees Hershey's predicament. Then he looks at the robot from head to toe...

HERSHEY
I don't like what you are thinking.

FERGIE
Neither do I.

CUT TO:

134 INT. JANUS LAB - NIGHT 134

RICO
Look Joseph, your brothers, your sisters to be born in a few hours. An endless supply of perfection. Now we have a choice. To create a race of robots, like him out there, and call them Judges. Or a race of free thinking people and call them human.

DREDD
Your diseased. You couldn't control yourself. What makes you think you can control them?

RICO
But your in control. I'm appointing you head of the new order -- you choose.

DREDD
You'll get nothing from me.

RICO
That's what I've wondered all these year. Why? Why did you judge me?

DREDD
You killed innocent people...

RICO
...a means to an end.

DREDD
You caused a massacre.

RICO
No a revolution.

DREDD
You betrayed the law.

(CONTINUED)

134 CONTINUED: 134 *

RICO
I was your blood, your brother.
I'm the only family you ever had
and you sent me to my death and
you talk about betrayal.
(beat)
We, we were the ones who were
innocent - your council's failed
experiment - do you want to do
to them what they did to you?

RICO
When are you gonna stop being a
slave and grow up?
(beat)
Now - choose.

DREDD
Rico?

RICO
Joseph?

DREDD
(long beat)
You're gonna have to kill me.

RICO
Why?

DREDD
It's your only hope.

(CONTINUED)

134 CONTINUED: (2) 134

RICO
Fido! Tear that bitches arms and legs off.

DREDD
Don't do it.

RICO
You're right, it's no way to treat a lady.
(to robot)
Rip his arms and legs off -- slowly.

The robot turns, clanks. The robot moves between Rico and Ilsa - and then the robot TURNS - DROPS Hershey and BACKHANDS RICO!

NEW ANGLE

Rico flips over backwards, drops down a level! Ilsa runs forward - and the Robot knocks her aside, too!

Astonished - until he SEES Fergie, hanging on the back of the robot, his hands deep inside it working its circuits!

FERGIE
Yee-HAH!

HERSHEY
Dredd! Catch!

She throws the Remington Ilsa dropped to Dredd!

DREDD

whirls, FIRES down at Rico. Rico dives for cover... manages to grab his Lawgiver! He FIRES back up at Dredd!

ILSA

jumps to her feet - right into Hershey's fist!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

134

FERGIE

hangs onto the robot as it staggers around, trying to regain control of its own movements.

Fergie sees it's reaching for him! Desperate, Fergie reaches into the robot as far as he can, throws a SWITCH! ZAP!

(CONTINUED)

134 CONTINUED: (2) 134

THE ROBOT NEW ANGLE

Its head goes into a spasm of electrical chaos. Fergie is thrown off. He hits the floor, hard. Something inside him breaks. But he still has enough strength to look up and SEE

THE ROBOT

FERGIE
Hack you... asshole.

SMOKE billows from its head. Slowly, it TOPPLES. CRASH! Fergie slumps - lies still.

CUT TO:

135 ILSA AND HERSHEY 135

Continue to struggle hand to hand. Ilsa breaks free - goes into whirling Karate moves - finishes with a savage KICK to the crotch -

HERSHEY - TILT UP FROM HER GROIN

Hershey just grins.

HERSHEY
You don't fight girls much, do you?

She grabs Ilsa's ankle, flips her!

CUT TO:

136 RESUME DREDD 136

He SEES Fergie in the doorway. Crawls over to him. Fergie's ashen, his shirt soaked with blood.

DREDD
Fergie!

FERGIE
(weakly)
Say it, Dredd.

Pause. Then Dredd remembers.

DREDD
I... I made a mistake. I... I'm sorry I misjudged you.

(CONTINUED)

136 CONTINUED:

FERGIE
And you'll never arrest me again.

DREDD
And I'll never arrest you again.

FERGIE
Damn straight.

DREDD
Take it easy, friend.

FERGIE
(he's going)
Dredd... get him.

He dies. Dredd closes his eyes. CAMERA TIGHTENS on Dredd as his face fills with fury. We CRANE UP with him as he COCKS the shotgun.

DREDD
RICOOOOOO!

He whirls, CHARGES into the open!

WITH DREDD - MARCHING FORWARD 137

He's a one man mobile artillery charge.

REVERSE ANGLE

It's like a fireworks display as round after round smashes into the lab-tech machinery, sparks everywhere. Mind totally blown, Fergie tries to aim, but then the BULLETS start to seek him out! He turns runs! The glorious lab starts to shake and shudder. This place is gonna blow.

WITH RICO

He DIVES behind some consoles! Armor Piercing rounds chase him punching holes just above his head. Equipment SPARKS and SMOKES Rico takes cover, lowers his voice.

RICO
Central! Hatch the first set of clones, now!

CENTRAL
The cloning process is not finished, Chief Justice Rico. The Clones will be only 60 per cent complete.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 137

RICO
I need reinforcements! Hatch the Goddamn clones, now!

CENTRAL
Beginning hatching prodess... now.
(pause; sotto)
I know we're going to regret this.

The lab sparks and crackles - CAMERA RAKES to the incubators. All around the lab, they start to slide out from the walls.

136 HERSHEY AND ILSA 138

grappling, they roll into the workshop area. Hershey gets a choke hold on her.

Ilsa grabs a wrench - smashes it overhead on Hershey! Hershey falls! Ilsa turns, KICKS her! Hershey lands face first on an incubator - the clone inside wakes - its eyes burn into Hershey's - it opens!

139 NEW ANGLE 139

A CLONE is oozing out of an incubator right in front of her! It's half formed, raw muscle and sinew barely covering bone!

140 WIDER 140

In shock, Ilsa backs away - drops the wrench! The clone, [illegible], FALLS. Hershey recoils from it in shock - as does Ilsa. But the weak clone collapses. Hershey grits her teeth, anger swells. WHACK - she punches Ilsa. The fight continues.

CUT TO:

141 DREDD 141

fumbling along in the smoke. He is suddenly grabbed, and turns, expecting Rico, but it is another half-formed CLONE! It rews horribly, clutches at him! Dredd stares at it, appalled at its very existence. They look into each other's eyes - the same. The clone is weak, distressed.

CLONE
P... Pain. Pain.

Dredd grits his teeth and votes pro-choice. BLAM! It falls away, vanishes in the smoke! CLICK, CLICK - Dredd's out of ammo.

142 OMITTED 142

143 HERSHEY AND ILSA 143

still fighting. Ilsa gets in one, two terrific blows.

ILSA
Bitch!

HERSHEY
Judge Bitch!

Hershey CLOBBERS her with a right!

CUT TO:

144 RICO 144

On the lower level. The lab is shaking - sparks raining all over. His Lawgiver ammo light blinking, his heart pounds as he prowls through the smoke, looking for Dredd.

He spies the exit and goes to move - Dredd, from nowhere, grabs his gun and turns him.

He DIVES on Rico! Each man grabs the other's wrists! Rico's weapon FIRES wildly, inches from his face. Dredd and Rico claw off equipment, FALL! Incubators smash around them, their doors opening.

A short stairwell breaks their fall - the Lawgiver falls beside Rico who reaches for it. Dredd tries to stop him. Rico is stronger - he grips the gun.

RICO
GRENADE!

GUN VOICE
All lethal rounds exhausted.
Select.

RICO
STANDARD BULLET!

GUN VOICE
All lethal rounds exhausted.
Select.

RICO
SMOKE BOMB!

DREDD

PAM! The round HITS HIM like a pile driver! His SHIRT catches FIRE!

(CONTINUED)

144 CONTINUED: 144

He falls backwards over a railing as SMOKE coils upwards!

RICO

RICO
Central! Turn off overhead lighting!

THUNK. The main lights GO OUT: only the floor lights remain. Rico grins, runs out of SHOT! In the central dais of the lab, sparks fly, the machinery rumbles.

145 ILSA AND HERSHEY 145

Surprised by the darkness, Ilsa falls, sliding on the slick floor. TILT up. Hershey, limping, comes towards her. Ilsa foot-sweeps her to the floor!

146 DREDD 146

On the floor below, chest blackened, trying to catch his breath. He REACTS as the lights go out. Seeing a LIGHT in the smoke, he crawls to it. Then his face falls: It's one of Central's EYES.

DREDD
Central! Can you -

CENTRAL
You are an escaped convict, Dredd. I advise you to surrender.

DREDD
Okay, you win. I'll give myself up to Chief Justice Rico. Where is he?

CENTRAL
(helpful)
Oh, he went upstairs.
(turning on LIGHTS)
Straight ahead to your right.

Dredd looks over to see the still peaceful body of Fergie. Sparks cascade over him. There is a rumble. KABOOM! The central dais is toast.

DREDD
Thank you.

Dredd goes for the door. One more look at Fergie, as the lab goes up around him - a viking burial - then dives out.

'A HERSHEY

146A

is thrown backwards. BAM! BAM! the incubator's machinery blows up. KABOOM! again - the lab is history.

147 EXT. STRUCTURE HEAD - NIGHT

147

Rico is starting the Lawmaster Mark IV.

DREDD'S VOICE
RICOOOO!

Rico turns, too late - Dredd tackles him out of the saddle! The bike crashes out of the opening. As it drops to street level, we crane back to reveal Dredd and Rico fighting in the HEAD of the STATUE OF LIBERTY.

HIGH ABOVE THE CITY

They trade punches! It is raining now - violent lightning strobes the statue. The Lawgiver skids out of reach. For a moment, Dredd has the advantage!

Then even from this distance, we SEE Rico connect with Dredd's chest wound! Dredd almost folds!

CLOSE AGAIN

Rico is almost as exhausted as Dredd. But Dredd is in agony.

RICO
This is how you repay me for telling you the truth?

Rico rubs salt on the wound again!

RICO
I'm the only one who never lied to you, brother!

Dredd falls, rolls to the edge of the precipice! Rico grins, struggles to full height.

RICO
(catching breath)
Joseph Dredd. I hereby Judge you. To the charge of betraying your best friend... GUILTY. To the charge of betraying your flesh... GUILTY.

Rico leans over the helpless Dredd. KICKS him. Dredd slips over the edge, dangles!

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 147

RICO
And finally... to the charge of being human when we could have been gods... GUILTY.

Rico picks up the Lawgiver. Puts it right against Dredd's head.

RICO
The sentence is DEATH!

CLICK

SOFT GUN VOICE
All lethal rounds exhausted. Select.

Dredd dares everything, GRABS Rico's HAND! Dredd's finger makes contact with the pistol grip. BEEP.

GUN VOICE
DNA accepted. Select.

DREDD
Signal Flare!

And as he SHOUTS it, he uses his last remaining strength to force it upwards.

THE SIGNAL FLARE ROUND FIRES, like a ROCKET! Rico is blinded. He loses his balance and falls from the statue but just in time Dredd grabs his hand and pulls with all his strength. *

SLAP! Dredd now has hold of Rico, who dangles below him. Dredd uses all his strength to pull them both up. Rico smiles -- fearless -- into Dredd's eyes. *

RICO *
You saved me, Joe? *

Dredd doesn't understand his brother's calm. *

DREDD *
You don't have to die. *

RICO *
(eyes light up) *
I won't. *

Rico brings up his other hand and forces Dredd's grip away. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

147 *

RICO
Life, Joseph, life. *

DREDD
No. *

The last finger is forced away as Rico drops... his eyes fixed on his brother's as he plummets down and SMACK! *

Dredd has lost his only brother. He has no strength left - his face and body bleed - he starts to climb up... Suddenly, a boot steps on his hand. He looks up. Sees ILSA - bruised, bloody -angry! She holds up the shotgun - finger on the trigger. *

WIDER

BLAM! Ilsa falls down DEAD - a shot in the back. Hershey appears - her gun smoking. She reaches down for Dredd's hand and pulls him up. *

CUT TO:

148 OMITTED 148

149 EXT. BASE OF STATUE OF LIBERTY - DAWN 149

Dredd exits the building - Hershey behind him. They both look like shit.

IN FRONT OF THEM, filling the city street, what seems like the entire police force.

Dredd looks at all of their faces - young cadets, Judges, Judge Hunters. They say nothing as they watch the hero in awe.

Then a chant begins. *

Golden light cuts across the steps as the sunrise breaks through the clouds... The imposing Chief Judge Hunter starts to move forward. Flanked by two other Hunters. They ominously approach Dredd. The crowd splits, sensing a showdown. The * chanting dies completely as the Judge Hunter raises his arms. *

DREDD
(to Hershey)
Stand back. *

The Chief Judge Hunter arrives in front of Dredd.

DREDD
Am I under arrest? *

There is a tense moment of silence.

JUDGE HUNTER *
That won't be necessary. *

The two warriors stare at each other -- mutual respect. Olmeyer fights his way through the crowd. *

OLMEYER *
Central broadcast the Janus plans *
after Griffin's death. *

JUDGE HUNTER *
We owe you a debt of gratitude. *

The crowd roars approval. The Chief Hunter hands Dredd his * helmet, another brings forth his armour. *

(CONTINUED)

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DREDD *
Thank you. *

He glances from Hershey, who smiles. *

HUNTER *
(over the crowd) *
We have to reconstitute the
Council, Judge Dredd. We'd like
you to consider the first *
position of Chief Justice.

DREDD
I'm a street Judge. *
(motions to Hershey who *
steps forward) *
I recommend Judge Hershey. *

JUDGE HUNTER *
Hershey, would you consider it? *

She doesn't know what to say. Dredd starts to move to a * waiting Lawmaster cycle.

DREDD *
...Don't be dumb. It's a good *
career move. *

Dredd straddles his bike and fastens his shoulder armour. * Hershey leaves the others behind to follow Dredd. *

HERSHEY *
Let me think about it. *

(CONTINUED)

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HERSHEY
That's it -- a near death experience and no good-bye.

DREDD
Good-bye, Hershey.

Dredd puts his helmet on. Reflected in the visor are the other Judges and police lights.

HERSHEY
Welcome back, Judge Dredd.

Hershey kisses him.

DREDD
Code 212: Illegal Physical Contact with a Judge.

HERSHEY
(whispers)
Bullshit, feels good to be human doesn't it.

DREDD
...I knew you'd say that.

Dredd smiles for the first time and starts the bike, roaring off as the crowd cheers.

The bike rolls away as the cheering fades in the distance... Dissolving to a night shot of Dredd high atop the City Hall. Astride his Lawmaster he surveys the city lights below... as the music swells, he places on his helmet with a sense of purpose and starts the engine. The Lawman soars into the night, swooping down into the chaos of the city he loves until he becomes just another light in the vista of Mega City.

FADE OUT.

HTC 25,036
GIFT OF TIM HUNTER
GIFT OF RICHARD S. NORTON